

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : How can I without narrating the background ?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from Sankosh, there are various other options which are being considered by the Government and the Kosi and Brahmaputra options are prominent amongst them. Besides there are several reservoirs in the Ganga basin which receive water into from the Ganga and its tributaries. In the Monsoon season these reservoirs receive excess water we are considering the option of releasing that water in the lean season.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1993, in reply to Shri Zainal Abedin, CPI (M) Member's question, the Government of India had replied that availability of 40,000 cusecs of water is a must for the navigability of the Calcutta port. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether before concluding this Agreement with Bangladesh you have taken the Bihar and the Uttar Pradesh Governments into confidence for the release of water because the Bihar Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav has declared that he will not release the water. He has admitted so to the effect that Bihar has denied to release the water. In that case, how are you going to ensure, firstly, the navigability of the Calcutta port and, secondly, the fulfilment of the Agreement with Bangladesh ?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an agreement has been signed regarding the sharing of water released from Farakka hence there was no question of taking Bihar and Uttar Pradesh into confidence about it. It was a question of sharing of water that flows down from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to Farakka. It is true that during the lean season, these states would be urged upon and pressed to make efforts to ensure continuous flow of water.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos, would you like to ask any supplementary ?

SHRI A.C. JOS : I do not have any supplementary question to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the efforts towards improving our relations with Bangladesh are concerned, the entire House is with you and we too want that our friendly ties with Bangladesh should be strengthened. But the matter of sharing of water is also a very crucial one. Hon'ble Minister has given a reply here in this regard and I would like to draw his attention as well as the attention of the House towards a part of his reply. The Government of Bihar has conveyed its apprehensions to the Union Government that this treaty for

ensuring additional down stream water could result in shortage of water in Bihar. How much shortage would be caused ? Whether the apprehension being expressed by Bihar is founded on facts and whether any such reaction has been expressed in Uttar Pradesh also ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told the Hon'ble Member that the water flowing through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar would not be affected. Only that water is going to be shared which flows down to Farakka. Hence all such apprehensions being expressed in the upper riparian states are unfounded.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that Bihar and U.P. were also involved at the time when responsibility was entrusted to the Government of West Bengal before signing the agreement. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether you had taken Bihar and U.P. in confidence or not ? Whether any cabinet decision had been taken before signing the agreement ? If not, what are the reasons therefor ?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter was taken up in cabinet meeting before signing the Agreement. It is not as if Ministers were not taken into confidence. So far as the involvement of Chief Minister of West Bengal is concerned, the Calcutta port is going to be directly affected by the water flowing from Farakka. Hence it was in the interest of the state that the Chief Minister of West Bengal should have intervened in this matter. He is a leader of national level and it was the duty of the Government to entertain his suggestion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 27, Shri D.P. Yadav—not here. Q. No. 28, Shri Jang Bahadur Singh Patel—absent. Q. No. 29, Shri Pradip Bhattacharya—not here. Shri Banwari Lal Purohit—not here. Q. No. 38, Shri Radha Mohan Singh—absent. Shri Bhakta Charan Das—even he is not here. Q. No. 31, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma. He is very much here.

#### Bridges in Assam

\*31. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new bridges on National Highways in Assam pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Two proposals for construction of new Bridges on National Highway No. 52 in Assam have been received and are under scrutiny.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question has not been fully answered by the hon. Minister. I have asked for the details of the proposals sent to the Ministry for construction of new bridges on the National Highway No. 52 in Assam.

In the month of August, the bridge over river Gai was washed away by the flood water. Since then a part of Assam and a part of Arunachal Pradesh have been cut off from the rest of the country.

There is another proposal which was submitted long before for construction of a bridge at Jalakisuti. For the last five years, the concerned departments have not taken adequate steps for construction of these two bridges.

I want to know precisely from the hon. Minister what action he has taken to implement these two proposals.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, a proposal for a bridge No. 350/2 for Rs. 348.20 lakh with a length of 94 metres on National Highway No. 52 came only in December, 1996. It is under scrutiny by our Ministry. There was also another proposal for a bridge No. 350/1 for Rs. 186.32 lakh with a length of 75 metres which was received by our Ministry in January, 1997. This proposal is also under our scrutiny. There is no other proposal in waiting.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any plans to implement these projects within the current financial year. It is because again the floods are coming and the people will suffer. The entire eastern part of our country will be again cut off from the rest of the country. Will the Minister give any assurance about implementation of these two proposals ?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, if they send their proposals, they will be considered and appropriate steps will be taken.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : The proposals have already been sent. Would the hon. Minister please assure us that those proposals will be implemented for the interest of the people ?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I cannot assure implementation of the proposals but I will consider them.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Chowkighat bridge across river Bharoli in Sunitpur district is also one of the two proposals under scrutiny ?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, there is a separate question on this subject.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, he said, 'two proposals are under consideration'. I want to know

whether these two include the Chowkighat Bridge over the river Bharoli. This is a very easy question to answer.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I am sorry, there is a separate question on this.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Assistance to Sports Institutions

\*24. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Government and non-Government sports institutions in the country including National Capital Territory of Delhi, which have been given Central financial assistance during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether these institutions have been authorised to receive financial assistance from private bodies also;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints that the assisted institutions in Delhi are misusing the grants on a large scale ;

(e) if so, the details of the complaints received during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check misuse of funds received from Government/non-Government institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The details of Central financial assistance given to Government and Non-Govt. sports institutions state/institution-wise during the last three years under the following schemes are given in Statements I to V enclosed.

1. Grants for creation of Sports Infrastructure.
2. Grants for Games & Sports in Universities and colleges.
3. Grants for Installation of Synthetic Surfaces.
4. Grants to National Sports Federations.
5. Grants to Rural Sports Clubs.

(b) and (c) For receiving assistance from private institutions, the above mentioned institutions are governed by their own Rules/Articles of Association etc. Neither any such authorisation is required from the Central Government nor does the Central Government maintain any details in this regard.