

Pradesh. A sum equal to the sum given to the State Government by the Central Government has to be invested by the State Government. So like this, the sum of Rs 50 crore become Rs.100 crore. So presently if they start working with Rs.25 crore it will become Rs.50 crore and the second instalment would be released after spending the earlier amount.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, this has been told as to how this sum of Rs.50 crore is to be adjusted. But it is a fact that no funds are available to create irrigation facilities in Madhya Pradesh and if these funds are made available by the Government it would certainly lead to more generation of electricity. As per the Narmada Water Distribution accord 182.5 acre feet water has been allotted for the benefit of Madhya Pradesh. But if the water is not used it would be treated as a national loss. So, my point is that other schemes are also dependent on this - Narmada - Shipra link Yojana is dependent on this, Narmada Choti Kali Sindh Link Yojana is dependent on this, Narmada Bari Kali Sindh Link Yojana is dependent on this. So, this is a basic scheme and with a view to complete this scheme and with a view to benefit irrigation, it is bound to be a matter of major concern. Hence, I wish to ask the hon. Minister through you whether they are going to frame any policy at the national level with regard to water resources and if so, what are its main features, this is my question.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the ensuing 9th Five Year Plan also funds would be provided to the State Government on the same line and for them the schemes involving expenditure of more than Rs. 1000 crore the amount has been provided keeping in view the request made by the State Government and matching the amount to be spent by the State themselves. But if still shortage is there and the State Government writes that they have to spend more than it can be considered.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister, through you, that Chandigarh has no river its own and no river passes through Chandigarh and the Central Government has been approached by the Chandigarh Administration a number of times in writing that a Dam should be constructed over river Ghagar which passes near Chandigarh to meet the requirement of drinking water and irrigation in Chandigarh so that both these problems of drinking and irrigation of this region can be solved. I would like to know from consideration and if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : It does not come under my purview so separate notice is required to be given.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : The hon. Minister has laid a statement on the floor of the House giving

details of the irrigation potential created State-wise in major and minor irrigation projects I request to the Honourable Minister that the water be available for the purpose of agriculture, for drinking purposes and for power purposes as indicated in the statement.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Speaker Sir, as we have reflected in our statement, it is position from 1991 to 1995 which includes everything irrigation, power and potable water.

[English]

### Panel of Expert Engineers

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\*345. SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to constitute a panel of expert engineers to propose a plan to inter-connect all rivers in the country and utilise the waters judiciously and the avert recurring flood fury in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such a panel is likely to be constituted;

(d) the time by which the panel is expected to render its recommendations; and

(e) the other measures taken by the National Water Development Agency for inter-linking of rivers to prevent floods and optimise the irrigation potential of the rivers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Commission has been set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. dt.13.9.1996 and subsequent modification dt. 25.10.1996 & 22.11.1996.

The composition of the Commission is as follows:-

1. Chairman

Initially Shri G.V.K. Rao was appointed as Chairman vide O.M.NO.2/11/96-BM/645-661 dt.13.9.1996. However, he resigned. Thereafter Shri C.H. Hanumantha Rao was appointed as the Chairman vide O.M. of even no. dt. 22.11.1996. He too has expressed his inability to accept the offer of appointment. Action

is being taken to appoint a new Chariman expeditiously.

2. Dr. S.R. Hashim : Vice-Chairman  
Member,  
Planning Commission
3. Shri V. Ramachandran : Member  
Ex-Chief Secretary  
Govt. of Kerala,  
Trivandrum.
4. Dr. V.S. Vyas (Economist) : Member  
Director,  
Institute of Development  
Studies, 8-B Jhalana  
Institutional Area,  
Jaipur-302 004
5. Dr. D.N. Tewari, : Member  
Ex-Chancellor,  
F.R.I. (Deemed University)  
Dehradun (UP).
6. Shri S. Prakash, : Member  
Ex-Engineer-in-Chief,  
Delhi Water Supply &  
Sewage Disposal  
Undertaking.
7. Shri C.C. Patel : Member  
Ex-Secretary (WR)  
Govt. of India
8. Dr. Bharat Singh : Member  
Vice-Chancellor (Retd.)  
Government of M.P.
9. Shri S.P. Caprihan : Member  
Engineer-in-Chief (Retd.)  
Government of M.P.
10. Director General, : Member Secretary  
National Water Develop-  
ment Agency (NWDA)  
New Delhi.

2. The terms of reference of the Commission are as under :

- (i) To prepare an integrated Water Plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and Other uses;
- (ii) To suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water-deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the above objectives;
- (iii) To identify important On-going Projects as well as New Project which should be completed on priority basis together with phasing;
- (iv) Identify a technological and interdisciplinary research plan for the water sector with a view to maximise the benefits;

(v) To suggest physical and financial resources generation strategies for the water sector;

(vi) Any other related issue.

There is a provision to co-opt other experts in the Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Commission is likely to complete its work in 2 years time.

(e) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) have identified 36 water - transfer links (17 under Peninsular Component & 19 under Himalayan Component) to transfer water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins. Pre-feasibility studies for all the links have been completed. Feasibility reports have been completed in respect of 3 links under the Peninsular component.

[Translation]

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the written reply shows that from the initial stage this Commission is headless. The Government has not been able to appoint its Chairman. A Chairman was appointed but he resigned. Another person was contacted but he too expressed his disapproval. I want to know, through you, Sir, the time by which search for a Chairman would be completed and the Commission would start functioning?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : This is a very important schemes for which an expert and well experienced person would have to be searched. Generally, an aged and well experienced persons is appointed as its Chairman. Former Chairman have expressed its inability on health grounds. The other man has also refused 3-4 days ago. Search for a new Chairman is going on.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated - The National Water Development Agency has identified 36 water transfer links (17 under the Peninsular Component and 19 under the Himalayan Component)

[Translation]

and out of these Peninsular Component links feasibility reports of three is complete. I want to know the names of these Peninsular Component links. The second part of my supplementary is that out of 17 Peninsular component and 36 water transfer links, which you just mentioned, the name of Orissa State does not appear anywhere. If Orissa has also been included, what are the rivers of the State. This is my first supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can ask only one supplementary. You are not aware of the rules. Your name appears at serial No. 2. Therefore, you can ask only one question.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this Commission has not started functioning properly, the Ministry of Water Resources has been working of its

own. There are three links - one is Bentwa link, second is Amba-Achankovi Vayappar and the third is Thermal power Narmada link. Feasibility Reports in respect of these has been completed. Work is continuing on the other links. This programme has started 2-3 months ago. Therefore, the whole work cannot be completed in haste. I am not in a position to state whether name of Orissa is there or not.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir,

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot expect a small supplementary from a big man!

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ken Project has been just referred to. It is a very big project which is under discussion for many years. This project is to be executed in my constituency. Every year 5 to 10 lakhs people of Dalit community migrate to Delhi in search of work because they are not able to earn their livings in their area. This project will solve the problem of small farmers of this area and these people will not have to come here. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister the latest position of this project and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this juncture, I am unable to tell anything as the feasibility report have not yet been prepared. As soon as this Commission starts functioning this project would be sanctioned.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The hon. Minister has kindly informed me that out of three links, one link is to transfer the water of south of Narmada river in the Sardar Sarovar Project. Already much progress has been made as for as the work of main canal of the Sardar Sarovar Project is concerned.

I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will see to it that the work of transfer of water of the river of South of Narmada is also completed so that these two jobs can be completed simultaneously and advantage of water resources can be derived.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an advice and it will be considered.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I want to know whether they are going to synchronise these two jobs or not.

[Translation]

No one is giving any advice. Your work is going on. I want to know whether they are going to synchronise or not. There is no question of advice.

[English]

Sir, I seek your protection. I want a definite reply whether these two jobs will be synchronised or not.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the whole it is an advice in the form of a question. Even then the Ministry would expedite it.

[English]

SHRI ISHWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are considering inter-linkage of our river system in the country. But there are reports in the Press that China is planning to reverse the flow of the Brahmaputra by 180 degrees into China. If this happens, then entire Assam and some of the North-Eastern States are going to be completely annihilated. I would like to know from the Government whether they are aware of a plan of this kind and if so what steps they propose to take with the Chinese Government. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether according to our experts and engineers such a reverse flow would be technically feasible and whether all those aspects have been gone into by the Government.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : This supplementary does not concern to original question. Therefore, I feel that a separate question should be asked in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 347.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, there is no Minister of External Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the Minister for External Affairs?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker Sir, My question is whether the minister had given you in writing about his absence. If not and he is not present...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I have been told that the Minister is very busy.

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot be busy otherwise when he has a Question in Parliament. Either he has to inform the House or entrust his work to somebody else.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the minister should have been present...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, he has not informed you and also wasted the time of the House. This is an affront to the House and to you, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, nothing could be more important than the House. He should have written to you about his difficulties. I request that he may be summoned immediately...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. NARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very important matter. The Minister is not here ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Sir, you should give a ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : What ruling can the Chair give? It is unfortunate. However busy a Minister might be, I think his parliamentary duty is the utmost important duty. The Minister should have been here.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have no information at all.

*(Interruption)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is not to be taken so lightly. I think during the last 30 or 34 years of parliamentary life, this is the first time that I am having this experience that not only the Minister is not present but nobody from the Government is also not ready to reply even on this behalf. This is something which is unexpected and against all norms of parliamentary behaviour. It seems that the Government is guilty of dereliction of duty to this House. It is a very serious matter and Mr. Speaker, you should take this matter in that seriousness and the Government should be admonished for this lapse. This is the minimum that is expected and as long as the Minister is not there, there is no rule that you can postpone the Question, unless and until you use your own authority to protect the Government. Otherwise there is no excuse ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think the Chair can protect the Government in such a situation.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is a matter of privilege for the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the Minister should know the seriousness of the situation. You must adjourn the House till the Minister comes. Even the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not here and you have no information at all ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have all expressed your feelings.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, you have no option but to adjourn the House. Somebody must go to the Minister and inform him to come over here. Only then, can the House continue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think so.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, there is a rule for suspension of Question Hour but there is no rule for suspending a particular question if the Minister remains absent. So, it becomes a matter of privilege and the Minister has committed a breach of privilege. Therefore, necessary steps should be taken...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Barnala.

*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Sir, it is a very serious matter. Not only is the Minister not present here but the leader of the House is also not present here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is very unfortunate. I think, the Government should take a serious note of it.

*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Sir, till the Minister comes to the House, you adjourn the House. That is my suggestion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, it is also affecting the dignity of the Chair because you have not been informed by the Minister, who is bound to give an intimation to you. The Minister did not even authorise some other Minister to reply. It is a matter of breach of privilege and the Minister must be summoned here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the House has expressed its feeling very clearly. I am inclined to agree with the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar. Even in my career as a Member of Parliament in this House - this is my fifth term - I have not seen such a situation like this when a Minister was absent. Normally, that does not happen. I think, the Minister should have informed the Chair or entrusted some other Minister to do his work in case he is busy elsewhere. I think, the Government should take a very serious note of the feeling of the House.

We will go to the next Question, No. 348 - Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, even after your observation, there is no expression of regret from the Government. Somebody should have got up and said, 'we are sorry'. There is not even an expression of regret...*(Interruptions)* The Government is not even bothered to express regret ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Would anybody from Government side like to say something?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, somebody from the Government side must tell as to what has happened...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : This Government is irresponsible. This Government has no sensitivity. This Government ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Biju Patnaik wants to say something.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJU PATINAIK : Sir, you adjourn the House for ten minutes so that the hon. Minister can come to the House ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you know where the Minister is?

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs has gone to attend the "Victory Day of Bangladesh" and he is on his way to attend the House. He will come here by 12 Noon. The Question may be postponed to be replied before 12 Noon ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The leader of the House is here. No, no, I share your sentiments. Let us hear him. Shri Lodha, let us hear the Leader of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, Censor Motion should be moved against the Government. The Government should be censored ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : I want to say here ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Leader of the House. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASA SINGH RAWAT : He has insulted the House. The Minister should tender an apology ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a leader of the House, I apologise for this. But in this there was not such intention of the Government ... (Interruptions) Please listen to me ... (Interruptions)

[English]

What more do they want after the apology? ... (Interruptions). The Minister is coming within ten minutes ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Parliament cannot be treated like this where the Government have no respect to the business of the House ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is correct that today is Victory Day. This day is celebrated through out the country. All the three wings of our Forces have gathered in the stadium. Hon. President and few Ministers were also there. But it does not mean that the Ministers who are to give a reply in the House should also go there. A number of Ministers were not here and we understand that they were busy. Had Mr. Gujral not gone there, we could have understood but he could have assigned this responsibility to somebody else. Government should have apologised for the absence of that Ministers. I do not know, Mr. Speaker Sir, whether you have received any information or not ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It came just now.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is wrong. This is a serious issue and the feeling of the Members can be understood. Mr. Gujral has reached. He should apologise.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, truly apologise to you and to the hon. House. I was stuck in the *Vijay Divas* parade. So, I hope my hon. friends will understand that ... (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no ... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Why could be not inform the Speaker? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if *Vijay Divas* parade was so important, why was the House not adjourned till 12 noon and why were the Members of Parliament not asked to be present there? They are as equally patriotic as the Ministers are or as the leader of the opposition is. No other person was invited ... (Interruptions). No, I was not invited. If I would have been invited, I would have been present there. I was not invited and I was not informed also. Let me be very clear because the impression should not go outside that after having been invited, I did not present myself in that function. If that was such an important function, at least the Members should have been informed that every Minister was attending that function. And whatever may be, there is no other function in the country which is more important than the proceedings of this House because this is the supreme body and not even one where the President is attending. So, I think this cannot be as excuse with the Government and the Government deserves total admonition by the House any by the Chair. No such excuse should have been there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, no other business can be more important than the duty to be present here when the Minister is required to answer the question. I wish the hon. Minister had not referred to that. An unconditional apology should be given to the House. Although I had the privilege of being invited, I do not know why he has not got the invitation. But since you had announced that you would make a reference to that in the House, I thought it was my duty as a leader of my party to be present here when the hon. Speaker would make an announcement so that our involvement is also expressed. The hon. Minister should have decided that the House was more important. The time was fixed at 10 A.M. Nobody could be present here by 11 A.M. when such an event was taking place. If there was an error of judgement, it has been an unfortunate error of judgement. There should have been no occasion to make such an error. Therefore, in future the Government as a whole should convey their unconditional apology and do not give any explanation. The minister made a mistake and he should say that he owes an apology to the House.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I entirely endorse what my hon. friends has said. I have said and I repeat it again that I tender an apology to this House and to you, Sir, for this slip on my part... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I would like to join the House that no reasons can be a valid reason for the absence of a Minister in the House. I think the Government will keep it in mind in future. Shri Gujral has apologised, the question can now be put

[Translation]

#### Agreements with France

\*347. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which bilateral agreements are being made with France in regard to Science, technology, trade and other related subjects;

(b) whether any new areas have been identified for mutual collaboration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) A bilateral agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology has been in existence from July 1978. A revised agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed in 1992. A Bilateral investment Protection Agreement was initialled in July 1995. A Financial Protocol was signed in January 1996. MOUs or Protocols are in existence on cooperation in specific sector including mines, coal, agriculture, energy,

ocean, Science and technology, petrochemicals, fertilizers, drugs, environment, water management, and railways

(b) and (c). Economic co-operation with France is developing satisfactorily. Trade and industry in both countries are active in exploring new areas of co-operation. Their efforts have the support of both Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, France is one of the biggest investors of the world. During last few years foreign investment have increased in our country but the French investments have decreased. In 1991, the French investment was 3.7 percent of the total investment but now it has reduced to 0.48 percent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the reasons for decreasing the investment of France in our country besides the fact that in 1995 the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao visited France alongwith a delegation of high officers and business men? Besides that, a talk was going on with the French Government on an agreement to prevent the trafficking of drugs and psychotroic substance. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister, Whether such agreement has been signed and if so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I am sorry that I did not really grasp the pith of the question. Is my hon. friend asking me whether we have a special agreement with France regarding some spices or something?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, with a view to check terrorism and the trafficking of drugs and psychotroic substances a talk was going on with the French Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such agreement has been signed and if so the detail thereof?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : No, Sir, for the time being there is no such agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India requires more investments in such fields in which France has acquired expertise such as the fields of electricity, transport, communication, roads and urban services etc. So, I would like to know the efforts being made by the Government to have more investments of France in these sectors? Besides that, India has also been exporting many traditional good such as cosmetic, leather goods, textile etc. to France for many years. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to increase the exports of such traditional Indian goods?