

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Lawrence, you can continue next time.

20.45 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Sanctioning of Bagmati Master Plan

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We now take up the Half-an-hour discussion. Mr. Bhogendra Jha.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Sir, this discussion arises out of the rather evasive and incomplete answer even to a question of mine on 22nd August 1983. The major part of north India has suffered due to drought and flood, and above all power scarcity which can be solved on a long-term basis, only by taming, training and harnessing the Himalayan rivers, because those very rivers do bring in floods and the soft alluvial soil. They help those rivers to change their course very often; and that is why, a large scale damage is done. So, floods and those very river drain out water to the sea and drought is caused.

In North Bihar, the per capita consumption of power has now come to 6KW per head per year while in the whole of India, the average consumption of power per head per annum is about 35KW ; it was 24KW 5 years ago ; it has come down to about 7KW now. You can only imagine in what conditions people are living there. Last year, there was drought ; this year, there was drought and rivers are flowing to the sea. In such a situation, six important projects, prepared projects are there. Rapti, Karnali and Pancheshwar for which some sort of an agreement was arrived at between our country and Nepal; and Kosi, Bagmati and Kamala for which also an agreement was arrived at earlier about two or three decades ago. But due to our shortsightedness, the Kosi high dam, biggest of them, was not implemented, because I was informed through a written letter about 14 years ago that such huge block of power was not required by us. One dam at Barasheter can generate 33 lakh KW of hydel power, the cheapest hydel power anywhere available at present. So, that short-

sightedness, we have to suffer now. At that time, Nepal was pressing for the dam itself because that alone was the remedy for all our troubles.

We went for embankments; we went for barrage; left the dam for some future date, because we did not require power at that time, as it was said.

Similarly, with regard to Kamala, the project was given up and only embankments and a reservoir at Vijaynagar were built and we erected a small barrage at Berjinia. All these things harmed Nepal. Some villages in which I lived earlier during the British rule, those villages of Nepal had been washed away by the Kosi.

Similarly, three years ago, Ghor Bazar, the District Headquarter of Nepal was over flooded during night and 30 persons died in that flood during the night because of our small barrage at Berjinia. So, due to this, there has been a change in the power position also. With the help of the World Bank, they have got erected one small barrage at Godar which has completely made our canal system, Kamala Canal System redundant. On Bagmati, last year, on 18th October, 1982, to an Unstarred Q. No. 2221.

I was told that the Government of India is having talks with His Majesty's Government of Nepal with regard to water resources, for the development of common rivers between the two countries, including the river Bhagmati, until an agreed sharing of waters of river Bhagmati is arrived at between both the countries, no master plan can be prepared. That was the commitment made to this House.

So, that is the answer I have quoted. But, now the position is, that a Master Plan has been okayed. Practically it is no master plan. Practically, it is no plan. Why has it been okayed by the Central Government, the Irrigation Ministry ? The planning Commission also has been rather compelled to agree to it.

(Shri Bhogendra Jha)

And, I have got the answer given on 18-4-1983. The Bhagmati project at an estimated cost of Rs. 185 crores and 70 lakhs comprising an irrigation component, envisaged construction of barrages, etc. etc. So this has been done. And, as I have again been informed, in May 1983 the Planning Commission has okayed it. This had created a very serious problem and I will like the Government of India to understand it. The Government of India has got two schemes or projects for that; one is what is called the Master Plan with a barrage at Ramnagar, embankment on both sides and canals with the help of the barrage at both the sides. Another one, Neminaare project was to cost Rs. 225 crores which was a flood prevention measure to build an embankment on the river, across Bhagmati and Bhiga Bhagmati. These rivers also merge into the same river Bhagmati. Rather, they are the tributaries and they are two separate projects, costing about Rs. 412 crores. These two projects clash with each other. I am sorry that many people here do not understand it; they do not know the problem. Remember that one single river Bhagmati crosses the railway line the N.E.R. line, the M.G. line, at six places. Thus in its serpentine manner, it crosses the line at Bergania Sitamari, Muneri, Mahmadpur, Hayaghat and Badlaghat the place where five bogies had sunk the year before last and hundreds of people had died there. One single river does like that and on this river. India is building two big projects, one near the embankment and the other a flood prevention measure. On that very river, getting disappointed with us, Nepal, with the help of World Bank is also constructing a project, a multi-purpose project at Nunther and a barrage on the Raj Marg, about two kilometres above the Raj Marg. What will be the result of this? When there is dearth of water, and it has been the case this year and again last year, and also for two years, there is severe drought. Then, the multi-purpose dam will consume the entire water and your proposed canal system based on the barrage, not on the dams, will not get a drop of water; the same fate which has been meted out to the Kamala Canal system is awaiting this and when there is rain coupled with floods when you do not require water, surplus water will be released by the dam in Nepal and there

will be flood. So, your flood prevention measures will collapse. Both these things will become redundant. Neither will you get water during drought nor will you avoid getting flood water when you do not require it. And this is being done and the assurance was correctly given that until the agreement with Nepal was arrived at this project will not be taken up.

Now they have decided this. The USA and other forces are very eager to disturb the relations between the two neighbours. Nepal is not only a friendly neighbour, but we are just like two brothers geographically, territorially, culturally, ethnically and linguistically. People on both sides have got blood relations. Due to ignorance and greed of the contractors shared by some engineers and some politicians because they must get something out of the earth work, only embankment is sanctioned. But this does not solve our problem. Even the rivers also do not take cognisance of these embankments. They change the course. Now, the Kosi river is pushing eastwards and eastern embankment is in danger. The same thing had happened to Bagmati when the embankment was constructed. For 30 miles the river changed its course and the entire money and land were wasted. In such a situation, multi-purpose dam at the foothill is the only solution for controlling the river and taking benefit. That can be done in co-operation with both the countries. This will solve the problem of hydel power for Bihar, UP, and Bengal for generations to come, because the dams on river Kosi and its tributaries will generate hydel power upto 7000 MW. I understand that on Pancheswar there appears to be some dispute. I would like the Government to contradict it. Nepal perhaps wants equal sharing. There cannot practically be equal sharing. Nepal will not require more than 20 per cent of electricity produced. But as a sovereign country it is demanding that. We are not agreeable to that. So, no final agreement on Pancheswar is arrived at. Because of that the Karnali project is also being delayed. Rapti project is also being delayed due to our proposed barrage at Ramnagar. Nepal is constructing a multi-purpose dam which will ruin us. And for Nepal also the Rajmarg barrage will not be of much use unless Noonthar dam is constructed. Similarly, Goddar barrage which was

constructed by Nepal with the help of World Bank, has done lot of damage to us. By this the Kamala canal system has been paralysed and made redundant. Nepal has also not gained much. It will gain only when the multi-purpose dam at Sisapani on river Kamala is built. This can be done in cooperation with India alone. So, mutuality of interest of the two countries and the people is required. I met some Nepali officials. They told me that they did not require so much of electricity. I told them that all the Himalayan peaks can be connected through ropeways and that will become the most beautiful and top tourist centre of the world. For us also the power problem will be solved for generations to come. In such a situation, I wish that the Government of India should take initiative at the political level. In this very House, last year, late Irrigation Minister, Shri Kedar Pandey, has assured this House that the matter would be taken up at the political level.

21.00 hrs.

I do not know why this has not been taken up, because the officers, with all their capacity and expertise, cannot decide on political action. Where something is to be given to a neighbour in order to establish better relations, so that the mutual interests on a wider scale are served, no bargaining with each other is required particularly with a country like Nepal. As I have told you, it is a full brother, nothing less than that.

In such, a situation, as I have said, the latest reply that was given on the 22nd August, out of which this discussion has arisen, says :

“In the talks at the level of Secretaries held in Nepal at Kathmandu in April 1983, the Nepalese side reported that the feasibility studies of Noonthar project on the Bagmati had not yet been completed. A view in the matter can only be taken after the feasibility studies are completed and detailed report made available by Nepal.”

Parts (c) and (d) of the question were :

“whether even now it is proposed to combine Bagmati Adhawara Projects

into one, co-ordinating them with Nepal for Dam at Noonthar to ensure irrigation and flood control ; and

if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefore ?”

I tell you that it is already under construction. Though the feasibility report is not ready, it is already under construction. You are hurrying up; so also Nepal is hurrying up. Do you want a riverine war? Will that solve the problem? Our Minister went to Bangladesh several times, and that is right, to solve the problem at the political level. Here the problem is easier if a decision is taken.

I want this House and the Government to know that there is problem for the Calcutta port, which requires 39,000 cusecs of water during the lean months. If only the dam is constructed, we can supply more than 50,000 cusecs of extra water for Calcutta port during the lean month and there will be no problem for the port in such a situation.

Taking into account the power shortage in the country, the chronic drought and flood—there is one after the other, if not at the same time—in such a situation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to take up this matter at the political level so that all these projects are finalized at one go. It is necessary because here you will have to yield, there they will be accommodating, that way the mutuality of interests can be resolved. If singly, separately, this issue is attempted to be solved, that will not be possible because the overall picture, overall interests, can be taken into account only if all these things, all these big projects, are taken up together. So, this is my first question.

Secondly, can the Government assure this House that unless first agreement with Nepal is arrived at, the Bagmati Master Plan will not be taken up? I am told that it has been finalized, it has been cleared by the Planning Commission also. Do you want to provoke Nepal? Do you want to provoke the local people on the Indian side? A delegation had come last week to Patna to meet the Engineer-in-Chief of Bihar to find

(Shri Bhogendra Jha)

out whether these people are prepared to cut the eastern embankment in order to get water. The Engineer-in-Chief was hesitant because, if he permits that, and then the next day or the day after floods come, or rains come, what will happen? He was in a dilemma. So, we require everything at the same time—flood control, irrigation and power generation—and we can get them from the same source.

The Kosi catchment area is Sagargata, known as Mount Everest in English. Then there is Kanchenganga, the perennial source of glaciers. This also falls there. So, whatever happens elsewhere, you shall get the cheapest supply of water for irrigation and hydel purposes.

The same is the case with Nunther. For the information of the Government, here I would like to say that the Bhagmati river itself is an artificial river. Those who have gone to Kathmandu might have seen that Kathmandu was a big lake and some sage engineer about 3000 years ago kept the southern side of the Himalayas for living. It looks as if 3 to 4 years ago it was cut and then the water came down gushing. That became the Bhagmati river linking Kathmandu with India and that lake became habitable with the help of the roofs being made out of wood, the floor made out of wood and also other things made out of wood. So, that was 'Kathmandap', Kathmandu. That building is still there entirely made of wood on the side of the river Bagmati and the temple of Pashupatinath. That artificial river is heating up. So, I would like the Government, in today's condition, to initiate it. I would like to know whether the Government have got the understanding that only multipurpose dams can solve the problem. No earthwork can solve the problem excepting that it created conditions of loot for many engineers, contractors and some politicians.

Sir, firstly, at the political level talks can take place, secondly, there should be multipurpose dams for the river Bhagmati combining all the Indian projects with the project of Nepal, so that the problem is solved and costs are reduced.

The same thing is with regard to Kosi. Nepal apprehends that the Varaha Kshetra dam may submerge the Varaha temple, the Puranic temple. To my view it is not the case. I think the updated project report that has been prepared from our side takes due care of that Varaha temple. I would like to know whether the Government is in a position to ensure that the temple will not be submerged so that it can be easier for Nepal to agree to that project also. I hope the Government will make this clear so that the people there may have some consolation and some solace. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, with your permission I would like to reply on behalf of my colleague, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Minister of Irrigation, who has to leave because of an important engagement.

I have heard the hon. Member, Shri Bhogendra Jha carefully. Many rivers flow from Nepal to India and cooperation between the two countries in the area of water management is necessary. Multipurpose dams on Bhagmati, Kosi and other rivers would provide durable solution to the problems of flood irrigation and power in the interest of both the countries. The problem of these three rivers was discussed at the Secretaries' level meetings held in Kathmandu in April 1983, and these discussions were to be carried further in the next meeting.

During the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to New Delhi in February 1983, it was agreed to set up a Joint Commission at the Ministers' level between the two countries. It is hoped that this Joint Commission will be established soon and it would provide a forum for discussing these matters at a high political level. The hon. Member wants that the matter should be discussed at the high political level. Steps have been taken, and I suppose the hon. Member is satisfied with what has been done by the Government.

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) :
अफसोस की बात यह है कि सरकार आपकी

रही हो या जनता सरकार रही हो, व्यापक दृष्टिकोण का अभाव रहा है योजनाकारों से हमारी शिकायत यह है कि वे खंड-खंड योजनायें हाथ में लेते हैं। उनका दृष्टिकोण रोग के तात्कालिक निदान पर ही रहता है, समस्या के मूल में जाने की कभी किसी ने कोशिश नहीं की है। कोसी परियोजना में यही हुआ, कमला नदी के कंस में हुआ, बागमती और अघवारा ग्रुप की नदियों के विषय में भी यही होने जा रहा है। श्री भोगेन्द्र झा ने कहा है कि अगर वैरेज क्षेत्र में बांध बन गया होता तो बिहार अपनी ही नहीं दूसरे राज्यों की ऊर्जा की समस्या का भी समाधान कर सकता था। कहा गया कि इससे इतनी ऊर्जा पैदा होगी जिसकी बिहार को जरूरत नहीं है। जैसा माननीय सदस्य न बताया है छः किलोवाट प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति वर्ष उत्तर बिहार में ऊर्जा की खपत है अगर आप बरौनी कम्प्लेक्स को छोड़ दें और उसको भी शामिल कर दें तो वह होती है चौदह किलोवाट। आप सोचें कि चौदह अथवा छः किलोवाट प्रति व्यक्ति प्रतिवर्ष जहां ऊर्जा की खपत हो वहां के लोगों की हालत क्या होगी।

कोसी परियोजना के मामले का समाधान निकाला गया। नतीजा यह है कि कोसी एरिया का एक स्थान जो बालुआ बाजार था वह तो सोना बाजार हो गया और बाकी सारा बाजार जो सोना बाजार होता वह बालू बाजार हो गया। उस योजना के कारण सारे बिहार को क्षति होगी और फायदा कुछ खास नहीं हुआ।

बागमती नदी के बारे में जो परियोजना आपके दिमाग में है उससे उसका पानी बांध के बीच में सिमित जाएगा और वह सारा पानी जो दोनों परियोजनाएं आपकी दृष्टि में हैं, एक जगह इकट्ठा हो जाएगा। और उस जगह वह खार छोड़ देगा और हर साल तटबन्धों

के टूटने की समस्या खड़ी होगी। जब तटबन्ध टूटेंगे तो वह इलाका जल प्लावित हो जाएगा, प्रलय की स्थिति वहाँ पैदा हो जाएगी। इस वास्ते मेरी प्रार्थना है कि नूनथारा में बागमती नदी पर बांध बनाने की योजना के बारे में आप अपना मन पक्का करें चाहे उसके लिए आपको कितनी भी ऊंची कीमत चुकानी पड़े।

अगर व्यापक दृष्टिकोण रखा गया होता तो उत्तर बिहार की जितनी नदियां हैं, कोसी है, बागमती है, गंडक है उनको ले कर आप मास्टर प्लान बनाते न कि खंड खंड योजनायें तैयार करते जैसे आप कर रहे हैं। उसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि गंडक प्राजैक्ट पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करने के बाद भी कोई फायदा नहीं हो रहा है। आपको सुन कर आश्चर्य होगा कि नहरें खुद गइ हैं लेकिन उन नहरों में एक बूंद पानी भी आप गंडक प्राजैक्ट का नहीं दे सके हैं। यह पैसा बेमतलब बरबाद किया गया। उसी प्रकार अभी आपके सामने जो खर्च का आकलन है वह 185.7 करोड़ है और 225 करोड़ की योजना आपके सामने आने वाली है योजना आयोग सब को क्लीयर कर दें तो करीब 410 करोड़ आप खर्च करेंगे। जब ये योजनायें पूरी होंगी तब पता नहीं यह खर्चा एक हजार करोड़ तक पहुंच जाए। लाभ कुछ नहीं होगा।

बागमती नदी के पानी में जो सिल्ट है वह ऐसी है कि जिस क्षेत्र में यह बाढ़ का पानी पहुंचता है,

पानी निकल जाने के बाद उन खेतों में उर्वरक देने की जरूरत नहीं है आपने बांध तो बना दिया लेकिन उससे उन खेतों को उर्वरक से वंचित कर दिया। नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि वह सारे खेत ऊसर हो रहे हैं और फायदा नहीं हो रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति से निपटने के लिये खेतों को पानी

(प्रो. अजित कुमार मेहता)

मिले, साथ ही बाढ़ से रक्षा भी हो इसके लिये आप बीच का रास्ता निकालें। जब तक आप सारे क्षेत्र को एक ईकाई मानकर किसी योजना की परिकल्पना नहीं करेंगे तब तक इसका कोई समाधान नहीं है।

बागमती पर बरसों पहले बांध बन गया। उस स्थान के वरगेनिया और ढेंग रेलवे स्टेशन के नजदीक 70,75 गांव के विस्थापितों को अभी तक पुनर्वासित नहीं किया जा सका है। ऐसी योजनाओं में इसी लिये लोगों की आस्था समाप्त हो रही है।

इन सब चीजों को देखते हुए उत्तर बिहार के लिए क्या कोई व्यापक योजना बनाने का आपका विचार है ? यदि है, और आप उत्तर बिहार का भला करना चाहते हैं तो कब तक इसकी योजना को ठोस रूप दे सकेंगे ?

खण्ड-खण्ड योजना का परिणाम यह होता है कि जिस क्षेत्र का मंत्री होता है, उसका दृष्टिकोण केवल वहीं तक सीमित रह जाता है, इससे सारे क्षेत्र का विकास नहीं हो पाता है। उत्तर बिहार हमेशा पिछड़ा रहा है, वहां समस्तीपुर यातायात की सही व्यवस्था नहीं है, रेलवे लाइन ठीक नहीं है। दो स्थान अगर नजदीक से सम्बद्ध हों तो दूरी 20,25 किलोमीटर होगी लेकिन अगर रेलवे लाइन से पूरा करेंगे तो 200 किलोमीटर पड़ती है। यह वहां के यातायात की व्यवस्था। इन सब चीजों से निपटने के लिये क्या आप कोई व्यापक परियोजना तैयार करेंगे जिससे सारे उत्तर बिहार का विकास हो ?

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : माननीय सिंचाई मंत्री ने श्री झा के मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर

में कहा है कि 185.70 करोड़ रुपये की बागमती परियोजना को योजना आयोग ने मई 1983 में स्वीकार कर लिया है और अधवाड़ा परियोजना का विहार सरकार अभी अन्वेषण कर रही है। इसका अर्थ है कि अभी योजना आयोग ने उस परियोजना को मंजूरी नहीं दी।

मैं केवल वागमती सिंचाई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस परियोजना को प्रारम्भ करने के लिए अब तक क्या क्या काम शुरू किये हैं और यदि अभी कुछ भी नहीं किया गया है तो कब तक शुरू करने का विचार है, क्योंकि इस परियोजना का सम्बन्ध भारत और नेपाल दो देशों से है।

माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार और नेपाल सरकार के बीच समय-समय पर विभिन्न स्तरों पर बातचीत होती रही है। इन बातचितों का क्या नतीजा निकला है ?

संसद-सदस्य महोदय ने माननीय मंत्री को पत्र लिखा है कि नेपाल वागमती के बहाव के ऊपरी भाग में बहुउद्देश्यीय बांध बन रहा है जिससे पानी के संकट के दिनों में हमें पानी नहीं देगा और जब आवश्यकता नहीं होगी तब उस क्षेत्र में पानी की बाढ़ कर देगा, क्या इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को कोई जानकारी है ? यदि हाँ तो सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

अन्त में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अप्रैल 1983 में सचिवों के स्तर पर काठमांडू में जो नेपाल के साथ बातचीत हुई थी, अब इस समस्या के हल के लिए इन दोनों देशों के बीच अगली बातचीत कब होने की संभावना है।

श्री शिवराज वी० पाटिल : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल पूछा गया है कि उत्तर भारत में

जो नदियां हिमालय से, नेपाल से आती हैं, क्या उनके पानी का उपयोग करने के लिए कोई व्यापक योजना बनाई जायेगी या नहीं। ये सारी नदियां उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में आती हैं और गंगा में मिल जाती हैं और फिर वह पानी समुद्र में चला जाता है। हमारे देश में जितना भी पानी है, उसका उपयोग करने की योजना बना कर उसका उपयोग करने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है। उसके लिए जो भी योजना बनाई जा सकती है, वह बनाने का निश्चित रूप से सरकार का प्रयास रहेगा। मुश्किल यह है कि जो पानी आता है, उसका बंटवारा किस प्रकार हो, यह देखना जरूरी है। श्री झा ने कहा है कि पोलिटिकल लेवल पर यह सवाल हल करना पड़ेगा। पोलिटिकल लेवल पर भी यह सवाल हल करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जब यह पता चल जायेगा कि कितना पानी लिया जा सकता है और कितना पानी इस्तेमाल में लिया जा सकता है, तब इस बारे में जो भी योजना बनाना मुनासिब होगा, वह बनाई जा सकता है।

श्री शैलानी ने पूछा है कि 1983 में सेक्रेटरीज की मीटिंग होगी, उसके बाद मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग कब होने जा रही है और उसमें क्या होने जा रहा है। हमारी तरफ से तो पूरी तैयारी है। जब उनके मिनिस्टर और हमारे मिनिस्टर की मीटिंग होगी, तो इस सवाल को हल करने की कोशिश करेंगे। लेकिन इस समय इस बारे में कोई तारीख देना सम्भव नहीं है।

प्रो. अजित कुमार मेहता : क्या यह सर्वेक्षण किया गया है कि कितना पानी उपलब्ध होगा ?

श्री शिवराज बी. पाटिल : जब तक दोनों देश मिल कर बात-चीत के द्वारा यह फैसला न कर लें कि उनका कितना पानी है और हमारा

कितना पानी है, तब तक यह कहना मुश्किल है कि कितना पानी मिलेगा।

21.24 hrs.

FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE OF
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO
BRING ABOUT RECONCILI-
ATION BETWEEN NIRAN-
KARIS AND AKALIS

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आनरेबल मेम्बरज, मैंने उस दिन निरंकारियों से अपील की थी कि वे न जाएं और कहा था कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों की कमेटी बनाएंगे, जो बीच-वचाव करे और मतभेदों को आपसी तरीके से हल कर के हमेशा के लिए इस मुश्किल को हल कर दे।

मैं पार्लियामेंट की तरफ से कमेटी एनाउंस करता हूँ :-

मेजर-जेनरल आर. एस. स्पैरो

कामरेड इन्द्रजीत गुप्त

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव

श्री जी. एल. डोगरा

श्री रतनसिंह राजदा

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल

श्री इब्राहीम सुलेमान सेट

श्री एस. पी. मित्तल

श्रीमती माग्रेट आलवा

Now, the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

21.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.