

12.02 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER  
OF IRRIGATION AND POWER OF BIHAR  
REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTRU-  
TION OF MAIN KOSI CANAL**

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD** (Bha-  
galpur): Sir, I call the attention of  
the Minister of Irrigation and Power  
to the following matter of urgent pub-  
lic importance and I request that he  
may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported statement by the  
Minister of Irrigation and Power of  
Bihar regarding the possibility of  
destruction of main Kosi Canal any  
time.”

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION  
AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO):** The  
Main Eastern Canal taking off from  
Hanumannagar Barrage across Kosi  
has a discharge in the head reach of  
15,000 cusecs. Of this 13,600 cusecs  
are for irrigation of 1.8 m. acres. A  
hydro-electric power station is also  
located at a distance of 2.5 miles from  
the head regulator with an installed  
capacity of 20 MW.

The Kosi river carries a large quan-  
tity of silt which it brings down every  
year from its hilly catchment in  
Nepal. The Silt concentration is  
more than four times the quantity of  
silt that is carried in Sutlej river.

From 1964, when the canal was  
opened for partial irrigation to 1971,  
it is estimated that nearly 21 crores  
of cft. of silt was deposited in the  
canal. More than half of this has  
been removed involving an expenditure  
of Rs. 1 crore.

The following measures have been  
taken to check excessive silt in the  
canal:

- (1) Relatively silt free water from  
the top portion was drawn in-  
to the canal to prevent entry

of coarse silt as far as possi-  
ble.

- (2) The canal is closed when the  
silt charge exceeds 3 grams  
per litre (i.e., the concentra-  
tion is 0.3 per cent silt).
- (3) A silt ejector has been com-  
missioned in 1971 and this is  
reported to be working satis-  
factorily. The advisability of  
providing a second silt eje-  
ctor is under examination.
- (4) During the canal closure, a  
part of the deposited silt is  
cleared and dredgers have been  
purchased for this purpose.

In December, 1972, the Government  
of India constituted a Committee of  
experts comprising Member (D&R),  
Central Water and Power Commission,  
Director, Central Water and Power  
Research Station, Poona, and the Chief  
Engineer, Kosi Project, to study in de-  
tail the silting problem of the Kosi  
canal and to recommend appropriate  
remedial measures comprising both  
short term and long term measures in-  
cluding engineering works, soil conser-  
vation, afforestation, etc. The Com-  
mittee is expected to report in the next  
three months.

It is observed that as a result of  
the improvements undertaken, the  
silt deposit in the canal is now re-  
duced to less than a crore of cft. for  
year as against 4 crores of cft. in ear-  
lier years.

After the closure of the canal ten  
days backs severe erosion of banks  
about a mile from the regulator upto  
the Power House has been noticed.  
Earlier, it was contemplated to pro-  
tect the slopes of the canal by con-  
struction of short spurs. As the erosion  
is severe, more permanent measures  
like lining of the canal will be re-  
quired. A senior officer of the Central  
Water and Power Commission has  
been sent to discuss with the State en-  
gineers and submit a report for  
further action.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:**  
While taking note of two important points in this statement, I would like to say that the statement admits that this erosion is severe and it also lists a few measures that have been taken to check excessive silt. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Is it a fact that the irrigation from the main eastern canal of the Kosi project has totally stopped due to the heavy erosion at several points? At some points it is reaching as much as 600 feet. Is it also a fact that the Rs. 10 crore Kataya Power House is closed as it is not getting water from the main canal. Mr. Mishra, the Irrigation Minister of Bihar who visited this site has given out a statement to the effect that it may collapse any time unless preventive measures are taken to protect. The hon. Minister here may say that preventive measures have been taken and have been listed in the statement. In spite of the fact that certain measures are there, the Minister of Bihar, his counterpart, says that it can collapse at any time. I would like to know why at all the preventive measure taken has not been encouraging and what the Government proposes to do in the matter for the future. May I know whether he is considering the construction of a bypass channel to provide permanent measures for preventing erosion? I want to know whether there is siltation problem in the barrage control room also. This suit has entered the control room also who have to control all these things from that end. This has affected two crores of c.f.t. I would like to know this mainly from the hon. Minister if it is a fact

that this has been due to the rise in the main bed within the embankment which is responsible for erosion? You have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1 crore. These are only temporary measures. Why is it that no permanent measures are taken. Why cannot you have a permanent silt control arrangement for this Kosi river, which is otherwise called, the River of Sorrow?

The Rajpur canal flow is stopped completely. This is adversely affecting the rabi irrigation in North Bihar. Can we not connect the present Rajpur Canal with Link Canal branching Off from permanent by-pass channel at Rajpur canal at CRP? Are the Government contemplating to have some permanent solution instead of only temporary solution for this.

How are the Government proposing to utilise this Rs. 10 crore Kataya project? I would like to know from the expert Irrigation Minister why this project of Rs. 10 crore, a white elephant project was designed at all? Is it technically sound? If it is a fact that this is technically not correct and this is a wrong decision, how do the government propose to correct it?

In the light of all that I have said, do Government propose to examine the entire Kosi project in the light of these permanent difficulties? The Minister will say, as he has stated in his statement, that in December 1972 a Committee of experts was constituted. In the light of that, I want to put these questions: If the Committee was constituted in December 1972, it is now,

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

April 1973; four months are over. Did not these experts have the eyes and ears to notice and hear the murmur of the damage that is already there in the Kosi project which is going completely to erosion and has completely stopped? What were they doing? Have they submitted any interim report? Have they in their interim report told Government that the project is in danger, has completely stopped, the control room is silted and there is danger of the project going down any time? If there was an interim report, what measures did Government take? If there was no interim report, how many times did this Expert Committee meet?

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly ask your question so that it may be answered.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Mr. Speaker, this is about Kosi which I know better....

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not talk like that. I am asking you to put your question so that he may answer.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I protest against your treating members like this. I knew you would ring the bell. I knew you were not following what I said.

MR. SPEAKER: I knew you would say like this. I am not allowing you to go on like that. I will have to ask you to sit down if you go on like that.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: As a protest, I am not putting my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not misbehave.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: You cannot speak to a member like that in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do like that. Please sit down. Do not be rude to the Chair.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I do not like this cheap jibe that you throw.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? I cannot tolerate this.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: For the future, both of us should be careful.

MR. SPEAKER: If you go on like this, I am not going to allow it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I speak under the rules of this House. I think under the rules of the House, the Speaker has no right to throw such cheap jibes at members.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please withdraw it or sit down?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I am not withdrawing. You said I misbehaved. I never misbehaved. Rather you are cutting such jokes and throwing such cheap jibes at me.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not cut any joke—where is the joke? You are a very senior member of the House. I did not expect this from you.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Therefore I know the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Under the rules, I have got the right to intervene and direct you to put the question. It does not mean that you can go on speaking when your attention is invited to this. I am not going to tolerate it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I also know the rules. Under the rules, I have got the right to do what I am doing. But as a protest, I sit down.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I would like to intervene and say that we should forget this unhappy episode and ask you to

let him continue for two minutes. I hope this will not recur.

MR. SPEAKER: Under the rules, members can ask only one question. When a member puts more than one question, normally I invite his attention and say that he can make his whole question as one continued question. That was why I was inviting his attention and telling him that he was putting so many questions and should therefore try to correlate them.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I have the privilege to speak, and I never speak in the House without preparation.

MR. SPEAKER: Anyway, this is really something which is very regrettable. Sometimes, I have even invited your attention that you may ask not only one question but you can have one correlated question. But this gentlemen, instead of listening to me, is coming right down on me.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have a submission to make.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You cannot have a dialogue with one Member.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I never go against the rules. I know the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: My feeling is, whenever you are asked about anything, you try to come right down on me and come into my field. Please sit down. That is my feeling.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Everytime I am on my legs, you are replying like that. I do not know why you are speaking like that. I knew you would ring the bell. That is what I have seen.

MR. SPEAKER: That means that I should not ask you to sit down?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) .  
दोनों तरफ से गलतफहमी है। आप उनको पूरा कर लेने दीजिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन से जो कुछ भी कहा जाए वह रौब डालने की कोशिश करने है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : पुराने मेम्बर हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं भी बहुत पुराना हू।

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow you, Mr. Bosu.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I am within the rules. Please treat me also as a Member of the House. I am not like a student in the class-room.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not expect such a behaviour from you. Please be sure of it. I am not going to tolerate it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I also did not expect such a treatment from the Chair. I am within the rules. What I am saying is within the rules. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: They speak beyond the rules. But you are just telling us not to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: They may say any thing, but I have got the right to regulate the debate.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I have also got a right to speak as a Member of the House. Both have their rights. (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please sit down. This gentleman is having an idea of his own (*Interruptions*). I am extremely sorry at the way you put things.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** I conclude with a protest. In the light of what I have asked, I would like to know this. This project costing Rs. 10 crores in Bihar is lying like a white elephant as if it is in the zoo. It is not going to give the benefit to the Kosi project people. I strongly protest against this treatment given by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power to the North Bihar people who have been subjected by the Kosi project to this devastation. I want a reply to this question.

**DR. K. L. RAO:** The hon. Member wants a clarification. The question was about the canal irrigation, and, whether the canal irrigation had been affected so far. Actually, what happened was, the canal was closed from the 1st April, when the rabi season was over, for annual maintenance.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** Will the Minister please repeat what he is saying? We could not hear anything, as the Speaker and Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu were speaking between them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I was telling him that it was only yesterday, in the Business Advisory Committee, that it was stated that less time should be taken, and that I should give a ring after a Member has spoken for seven to 10 minutes.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** You declared that?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** I have seen in this House Members speaking for 25 minutes. I appreciate that. Let it be followed henceforth.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It was repeated again. This is not the first time. I am sorry this takes a lot of time. It is for you to take it or not.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** You lay down a rigid, uniform standard. That is all. Not double standards.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Sit down please. I think you are also trying to encourage it.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** Five minutes or 10 minutes. I will appreciate it.

**DR. K. L. RAO:** I would submit that two important questions have been raised by the hon. Member. One was as to whether irrigation itself has been affected by this canal or not. As I submitted, operation of the Kosi Canal has not affected the irrigation. The other question raised by him is about the power house. He said that the power house was not used even though it had cost the Government a sum of Rs. 10 crores. Actually, I should tell him that the cost of it was only Rs. 7 crores. But, still, I agree with the hon. Member that this power house has not been successful in the sense that it is not giving adequate power. At the time of sanction of the power house, it was known that it would cost more than for other conventional power stations. At that time negotiations with Nepal were going on. So far as Birpur and other northern areas are concerned, they were deficient in power. In fact there was no power available at all in those days. That was why this power house was sanctioned. I agree with the hon. Member that this power house had not been considered to be a good one or a very beneficial one.

The other question of the hon. Member was about the stability or the safety of the main eastern canal. That was his main question. There are two problems connected with the Kosi. This was one of the most difficult rivers in the world—next of course to Yellow river. This was called the river of sorrow. This causes damage to North Bihar. For the last 12 years or so this has been controlled. Kosi river gets a huge

amount of silt. As I said earlier this river is a most difficult one—next, of course, to the Yellow River. We know that there is heavy silt. As compared to Sutlej river, the concentration here is four times more. That is our chief difficulty in regard to the control of Kosi river. Since this river carries very heavy silt with it, this is a big problem and so we took some measures as was done in the case of the Ganga and other Himalayan rivers. We did not allow the heavy silt to come into the canal.

Secondly, we have put in an ejector so that the water and silt could be washed out. By this measure, we found that the silt-content in the canal has gone down. From about 4 crores c.ft. the silt-content has come down to 90 lakhs c.ft. We also find that the ejector has been very useful. We are now, thinking of constructing another ejector so that the silt could be further controlled. I must say that we have been very lucky that so far the River Kosi has not been giving us any serious problem. In recent times, as we all know, the course of the river has not shifted westwards; it was near Purnea eighty years back and now it flows near Nirmali, that is, the lateral shaft is about 75 miles.

The project which we have taken up is a good one. Nobody can say anything about the amount of stability and the prosperity built in the area. I can only say that this project has been very successful. I won't say the same thing about the power house. That has been a disappointing one. The main trouble now is with regard to erosion and not silt which we are able to control. The canal is constructed in a sandy area without lining.

In fact, the Rajasthan Canal under similar circumstances is being completely lined. Just like that, we should have done here also. In fact, we are lining the western Kosi canal. At least the first portion of the eastern canal also should be lined. Be-

cause there was no lining, clear water has cut the slopes and widened it, causing erosion. But there is nothing much by way of anxiety. These things are inevitable when we are tackling a river system like Kosi, but we have to take steps in time to line those 2-1/2 miles. I am sending a team of experts so that we may not lose any time and the lining can be taken up this year itself.

About the committee appointed in December for suggesting both permanent and short-term measures, that committee has not sent its report. In fact, I was very angry with them, this morning. They should have at least sent a report about the lining, which is inevitable. In any case, we could not have started it earlier than 1st April because the water was flowing down the canal for the rabi crop.

श्री राम भगत पासवान (रोसेरा) :  
अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोसी नहर के ध्वस्त हो जाने की आशंका से जनता काफी भयभीत हो चुकी है। जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया है कि यह बहुत दुःखदायी नदी है। कोसी नदी को रिबर आफ सारो कहा जाता है। बाघ का निर्माण होने के पहले इस की चाल यही रही है कि यह अपने पुराने स्थान को छोड़ कर, बालू और कीचड़ से भर कर उर्वरा भूमि में प्रवेश करती थी और हर साल बाढ़ ला कर लाखों एकड़ भूमि को बरबाद करती थी। इस से सुरक्षा के लिये इस बांध का निर्माण किया गया था। शुरू में लॉवर सेन कमेटी ने रिपोर्ट दी थी कि कोटार डैम बनाया जाये ताकि सिल्टेशन के द्वारा जिस तीव्रता से यह बालू और कीचड़ ला कर नहर को भरती जा रही है, उस को रोका जाये। लेकिन इस पर सरकार का ध्यान नहीं गया। फलतः जो सिल्टेशन का रेट है वह क्रमशः बढ़ता ही जा रहा है और धब धका यह हो गई है कि क्रमशः यह नहर बरबाद होती चली जा रही है। यदि इस नहर की सुरक्षा नहीं की गई तो इस के लिये कोई खास स्टेप नहीं

[श्री राज भक्त पासवान]

लिया गया तो यह निश्चय ही ध्वस्त हो जायेगी। अभी तक जो भी स्टेप लिये गये हैं वह बिल्कुल टेम्पोरेरी रहे हैं, परमानेंट सोल्यूशन की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि स्टेप लिए जा रहे हैं लेकिन कोई भी स्टेप कारगर नहीं हुआ है। इतने स्टेप लेने के बावजूद नहर ध्वस्त होती चली जा रही है। क्या मंत्री महोदय परमानेंट सोल्यूशन के लिये कोई इमिजिएट व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं ?

प्राज सैकड़ों मील में बहने वाली इस नदी के एम्बेकमेंट के अन्दर के लोगो का जन जीवन बिल्कुल असुरक्षित है। प्राज वह लोग बही कष्ट पा रहे हैं जो पहले कोसी नदी के द्वारा लोगो को होता था। हजारों एकड़ भूमि को यह कोसी नदी धारा में बालू ला कर रेगिस्तान बनाती जा रही है। दूसरी ओर बाढ़ के कारण यहां के लोग बहुत ही सकुटप्रस्त रहते हैं और अनेक बीमारियो के शिकार होखे रहते हैं। कई बार सरकार ने अनुरोध किया गया कि कोसी तटबन्ध के अन्दर लोगो को सुरक्षित किया जाये अन्यथा वहां से लोगो को निकाल कर दूसरी जगह बसाया जाय, लेकिन अभी तक उनके कष्ट निवारण की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई।

तीसरा प्रश्न यह है कि बैस्टर्न कोसी कैनल भी बनने जा रही है। जो समस्या पूर्वी कैनल से उपस्थित हुई है हो सकता है कि बैस्टर्न कैनल से भी बही उपस्थित हो। इस वास्ते सरकार क्या प्रीकाशनरी स्टेप लेने जा रही है बैस्टर्न कोसी कैनल के बारे में?

क्या कबर सैन कमेटी की जो रिपोर्ट थी उसका उल्लेखन किया गया ? क्या वह भी सही नहीं है कि यदि न किया जाता तो प्राज जितनी तीव्र गति से सिल्टिंग हो रहा है और कोसी नहर को तबाह उसकी बजह से होना पड रहा है, वह नहीं होना सकता ?

DR K L RAO: I answered all these questions in my reply to the first question I am afraid, I will have to repeat them With regard to the Kosi Project there are two distinct matters that have got to be taken into consideration, and they are the problems relating to the two aspects of the river, which are entirely different There is erosion, and there is silt With regard to silt we have taken some measures which are quite effective So the silt problem is being adequately tackled In regard to erosion we have to take further measures One of the measures that we are thinking of now is canal lining of at least three or four miles so that there will be no erosion

The problems we are facing in the Kosi are some of the most difficult in the world But we need not get frightened We can solve them

The Kosi embankment has got to be watched very carefully The State Government has got a very good organisation for looking after this embankment They are spending nearly Rs 80 lakhs to Rs 1 crore every year So far, the embankments have been a withstanding very well It is a matter of comfort that the Kosi embankment work is very effective In the Western Kosi canal, unlike the Eastern Kosi Canal, it is going to be lined Otherwise, it will not be able to stand the velocity of water because of its sandy nature

Then, I do not know what he meant by violation of Kanwar Sain's report There is no violation We take up all sound advice

श्री बिरजीब झा (सहरसा) दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण कोसी क्षेत्र के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में मैं यहां उपस्थित हूँ। जिस व्याधा की ओर मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करने जा रहा हूँ उसके बारे में मैं आपको पहले निवेदन कर देना चाहता हूँ कि हो सकता है कि उस सिलसिले में मैं आपके निर्णयों के विपरीत

में कुछ अधिक समय ले लूं। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि हमारी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति को देखते हुए आप मुझे उसके लिए क्षमा करेंगे।

यह हमारा सीमास्थ रहा है कि आज देश के सबसे बड़े प्रख्यात अभियंता हमारे इस विभाग के मंत्री यहां बैठे हुए हैं। यह भी हमारा सीमास्थ रहा है कि जिस समय कोसी योजना बनने लगी थी उस समय एक अभियंता के रूप में इन्होंने ही उसमें अपना प्रमुख हाथ बताया था। यह दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि कोसी योजना के पूरा होने के इतने दिनों के बाद भी वही विपदा आज हमारे ऊपर विद्यमान है।

कोसी तटबन्धों के अन्दर रहने वाली जनता तो कराह रही ही है लेकिन उसके बाहर जो लोग हैं और जिनके वास्ते सिंचाई तथा नहर की व्यवस्था की बात की गई है, वे भी कराह रहे हैं। अपनी रिपोर्ट में मंत्री जी ने बताया कि 18 लाख एकड़भूमि पटाने की इनकी योजना पूर्वी मुख्य नहर से है लेकिन आप अभी तक केवल छठाई तीन लाख एकड़ से ज्यादा में पानी नहीं दे पाए हैं और इससे ज्यादा भूमि का पटवन नहीं होता है। यह हमारी दुर्घटना है। हम अंधर में लटके हुए हैं। कोसी जो विभिक्षा डालती है उससे आज भी रोंगठे खड़े हो जाते हैं। तटबन्धों के भीतर तो सकट है ही लेकिन उसके बाहर भी संकट आने वाला है। पहले यह होता था कि नदी के किनारे जो गांव रहते थे वे अचर क्षम को सिंचाई देते थे तो अगली सुबह लापता हो जाने के और नदी के गर्भ में विलीन हो जाते थे। तटबन्धों के अन्दर जो गांव हैं उनकी यह हालत आज भी विद्यमान है। पूर्वी मुख्य कोसी नहर में भूक्षरण प्रारम्भ हो गया है। इससे मालूम होता है कि यह सारी समस्या पुनः उपस्थित होने वाली है।

राजपुर शाखा नहर से 2700 क्यूसेक पानी देने का इन्होंने खाका बनाया था। उस में अभी ये सिर्फ 1700 क्यूसेक पानी ही दे पाते हैं। आज राजपुर नहर का जो हैंड रेगुलेटर है, उसका जो मुंह है, वह बालू से

भर गया है और वह बन्द हो गया है जैसा कि बिहार के सिंचाई मंत्री न बताया है। इसलिए बालू रबी की फसल को भी भारी नुकसान हुआ है। उससे सिंचाई के हेतु पानी नहीं मिल सका। यह स्थिति आज हमारी है।

जो विशेषज्ञ हैं उनके अनुसार एक क्यूसेक पानी में 100 एकड़ के पटवन का अनुमान है। लेकिन जो व्यवहारिक लोग हैं वे बताते हैं कि एक क्यूसेक में कहीं 10 एकड़ और कहीं 20 से 25 एकड़ से ज्यादा नहीं पट सकती है। इस तरह से जो 18 लाख एकड़ की बात है वह कल्पना मात्र है।

कटैया जल विद्युत गृह से विद्युत प्राप्त करने की जो बात है मंत्री जी ने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है कि दस करोड़ राष्ट्र का उस पर खर्च हुआ है लेकिन उसमें से कुछ भी बिजली नहीं मिल रही है।

66,000 एकड़ जमीन का अर्जन करके तथा डेढ़ दो लाख लोगों को तथा तीन लाख एकड़ भूमि को दोनों तटबन्धों के भीतर रख कर लगभग अस्ती करोड़ रुपये की लागत से कोसी बांध को बनाया गया था और कहा गया था कि इसके बन जाने के बाद तटबन्धों के भीतर पडने वाले लोगों का स्थायी और समुचित पुनर्वास हो जायगा। लेकिन आज भी हर वर्ष बांध के भीतर हजारों एकड़ भूमि कट कर तथा बालू भर कर बरबाद होती रहती है। इस तरह से तो उन लोगों का कभी भी उद्धार होने वाला नहीं है।

आज सहरसा और पूर्णिया क्षेत्रों को सिंचित क्षेत्र करार दिया गया है। उसके मूलाधिक भू-हदबन्दी हो रही है। सिंचित क्षेत्र के मुताबिक ही जमीन मिलेगी। यह उचित और न्यायसंगत नहीं है। वह कैसा सिंचित क्षेत्र है इसको भी आप देखें। मंत्री जी इस क्षेत्र में 18 लाख एकड़ की सिंचाई की बात करते हैं किन्तु हम कहते हैं कि चौदह लाख एकड़ में भी



[श्री जिरंजीव झा]

सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो जाय तो हम उसको सिंचित क्षेत्र मान लेंगे। वस्तु में दो ढाई लाख एकड़ से ज्यादा जर्मन पटनी नहीं है। यह एक विषम समस्या है। सिंचित क्षेत्र करार दिया जाता है लेकिन सिंचाई की व्यवस्था भी नहीं हो पा रही है, पानी भी ये नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। सरकार को घसिंचित क्षेत्र के अनुरूप ही यहां भी जोत की सीमा बांधनी चाहिए।

कब मैं प्रश्न करता हू। क्या सरकार घसिंचित क्षेत्र एक उच्च शक्ति सम्पन्न टेकनीकल कमेटी का गठन करेगी जो सम्पूर्ण कोसी योजना की समस्याओं की तथा रेत, गाद, भूस्तरण नहर से सिंचाई, तटबंधों की रक्षा, तटबंधों के भीतर रहने वाले ढाई लाख लोगों के स्थायी पुनर्वास तथा कटैया जल विद्युत उत्पादन की समस्याओं को ठीक से जांच और विश्लेषण करे तथा उसे कार्यान्वित कराए ताकि एक करोड़ से अधिक आबादी के इस क्षेत्र के लोगों की रक्षा हो सके? क्या पूर्वी नहर से चौदह लाख एकड़ जमीन को सिंचाई की सुविधा प्रदान की जाएगी और अगर हां तो कब तक? कटैया जल विद्युत गृह को कब तक चालू किया जा सकेगा?

इन सारी समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए बिहार सरकार सक्षम नहीं है। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार उसे सीधे अपने अधीन ले कर इन सभी समस्याओं का भी हल निकालेगी? क्या राजपुर शाखा नहर से आपके खाते के अनुसार 2700 क्यूसेक पानी प्राप्त किया जा जा सकेगा जबकि अभी सिर्फ 1700 क्यूसेक ही उसे मिलता था और अब वह भी बंद हो गया है? मैं जानना चाहता हू कि क्या तटबंधों के भीतर भी नदियों की सतह का इजिप्त घाम करायेगे जिससे तटबंधों के भीतर भी नदी अपनी आराधना को त कबलें और लोगों की जमीन, फसल तथा घर, बराबर वृष्ट ब होते रहे?

DR. K. L. RAO: The first question the hon. Member asked was about the maintenance of the embankment.

It is inevitable. As an old Chinese proverb goes—the Chinese are very accustomed to it and they maintain very well their embankments—embankments without maintenance are no embankments and they are very dangerous. Therefore, there must be very good maintenance, whether it be in Bihar or any other part of the country. Embankments mean immediately an expenditure committed and every year you must spend money. The more you are careful about the maintenance, the better the service will be. Therefore, there is no question of neglecting the maintenance of the embankment. If the embankment is not maintained properly, it will be breached and the protected areas will be flooded.

So far, the maintenance has been very good in the Kosi embankment and I hope it will continue to be so. You cannot help it.

With regard to irrigation, I never said that 18 lakh acres have been irrigated. I wish I was able to say that. All that I said was that the project was intended to irrigate 18 lakh acres. Actually, the potential that has been built up for irrigation so far is only 7 lakhs of acres and the actual irrigation is only half of that 7 lakh acres—to be exact, it is 3-1/4 lakh acres. So, the actual irrigation is 3-1/4 acres as against 18 lakhs of acres. There are two or three reasons for it. One reason is that there was a satta system. Under that system, the farmer every year has a choice to use water or not and we insisted that this system be removed and it has been done. In the last two months it was removed. Now, it is compulsory for every farmer to register and take the water and pay for it whether he takes water or not. So, that satta system, will no more affect the irrigation utilisation.

Secondly, I think no field channels have been constructed in that area. That was another reason why irrigation is lagging.

We are aware of these problems in that area. Having spent crores of rupees, nobody would like to see that there is no irrigation developed. Therefore, we have appointed a committee of the Ministers of States headed by the Minister for Irrigation and Power from Maharashtra, Shri Yasant Rao Patil, who is a very capable, experienced and valuable Minister and the Committee is going into these various projects where the utilisation is not there and the Kosi project in particular is being studied. I am sure we will get quite a valuable report from them to develop its irrigation.

The other question the hon. Member raised is about the rehabilitation of the persons living between the embankments. This is a major problem and it has to be tackled by the State Government. I have every sympathy for the hon. Member who has expressed anxiety in the matter and I would request the State Government to take all measures that are possible.

श्री कनेस्वर प्रसाद सिंह (छपरा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह कॉलिंग एटन्शन नोटिस बिहार के सिचार्ड मंत्री डा० जगन्नाथ प्रसाद मिश्र, के उस स्टेटमेंट के आधार पर दिया गया है, जो उन्होंने 28 मार्च को फ्रैक्विसनगर में दिया था। उस स्टेटमेंट में मंत्री महोदय ने स्थिति को भयकर बताया था और कहा था कि वह इस मामले को बिहार की मन्त्रि-परिषद के सामने रखेंगे और मन्त्रि-परिषद के द्वारा भारत सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकषिप्त किया जायेगा।

मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान उन्ही बातों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ, जिनका चिह्न बिहार के सिचार्ड मंत्री के स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि पूर्वी कोसी नहर में कई स्थानों पर कटाव होने के कारण सिचार्ड बन्द हो गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह सही है कि कटाव के कारण सिचार्ड बन्द हो गई है।

बिहार के सिचार्ड मंत्री ने यह भी कहा है कि पावर हाउस दस करोड़ रुपये नहीं बल्कि सात करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बना है। उस की लागत कुछ भी रही हो, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ क्या यह सही है कि वह पावर हाउस पानी न मिलने के कारण बन्द हो गया है।

सिचार्ड मंत्री ने यह भी कहा कि नहर के बचाव के लिए जितने भी उपाय किये गये हैं, वे सब बेकार साबित हुए हैं इस और कारण वह नहर बर्बाद हो जायेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में जो प्रिवेटिव मेजरज लिये गये थे, क्या वे मफल नहीं हुए और वे बेकार साबित हुए।

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि बिहार के जो अधिकारी बहा उपलब्ध थे, उनसे बात करने के बाद वह बात हुआ कि है वहाँ पर वे जटिल समस्याये है। एक तो कटाव; दूसरे, सिचार्ड और तीसरे, पानी की धारा द्वारा इकट्ठी की गई मिट्टी का जमाव, जिन से तटबन्ध के बीच से नदी का पेट ऊँचा हो जाता है और पानी की धारा बदल जाती है। इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए उन्होंने एक उच्च-स्तरीय समिति बनाने की सिफारिश करने की बात कही है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बिहार सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाया है।

क्या मंत्री महोदय यह जानते हैं कि यद्यपि सरकार ने यह बड़ी योजना इतनी लागत से कार्यान्वित की है, लेकिन आज कोसी क्षेत्र के लोग इस स्थिति में पहुँच गये हैं कि वे कह रहे हैं कि इस योजना से जितना लाभ उन को होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं हुआ, बल्कि जो लोग तटबन्ध के बीच में हैं, वे ज्यादा परेशानी महसूस कर रहे हैं? मंत्री महोदय ने भी चिरजीव का के प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि तटबन्ध के बीच में रहने वाले लोगों के रीहै-बिलिटेशन का काम बिहार सरकार करेगी।

[श्री राममोंबर प्रसाद सिंह]

मगर बिहार सरकार द्वारा यह कार्य न किये जाने की वजह से वे लोग परेशानी का सामना कर रहे हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस अनुभव के लाभ उठाते हुए गंगा नदी पर बक्सर और कोयलबर के बीच में तटबन्ध बनाने से प्रस्ताव पर पुनर्विचार करेंगे क्योंकि वहाँ की स्थिति इस से भयंकर होगी? जब तक उस बीच में रहने वाले लोगों के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था न हो जाये, तब तक वहाँ पर गंगा नदी का बांध बनाने की योजना को स्थगित रखा जाये।

जैसा कि मने कहा है, बिहार की राज्य सरकार तटबन्ध के बीच में रहने वाले लोगों का पुनर्वास नहीं कर सकी है, इस लिए वे लोग कठिनाई में हैं और वे समझते हैं कि इस योजना से उन को लाभ के बजाये नुकसान हुआ है।

DR. K. L. RAO: I have not heard about the pressure on the main embankment. I have not received any letter from the Government of Bihar. Only for the past ten days or so this erosion has been severe. When I heard of this, I despatched immediately an officer from here to the spot. We should not allow erosion to take place, to damage our main canal. And with regard to the oustees who are living in between the embankments, it is a very difficult problem; 200,000 people are living there and the embankments are constructed some 10 miles apart at Nirmali. He mentioned about the Koilwar-Buxar embankment. It is on the right side of Ganga river. This is a problem which has to be tackled carefully and we have to see that the people living between the embankments are properly rehabilitated. I shall draw the attention of the State Government to this problem and we have to see that there is only minimum suffering to the persons concerned. I would draw the attention of the State Government to these matters.

श्री शंकर बाबाल सिंह (बैतार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कोसी की समस्या और तटबन्धों की समस्या ऐसी रही है जिस पर इस सदन में कई बार विचार हो चुका है। मुझसे पूर्व के बक्तव्यों ने बहुत सारे प्रश्न किए और मंत्री महोदय ने उसके उत्तर दिए कुछ सन्तोषजनक और कुछ जिनमें अभी शंका की जा सकती है। आज जो कालिग अटेंशन हाउस में आया उस का आधार 'इंडियन नेशन में निकला हुआ यह समाचार है जिसमें बिहार' के इरीगेशन एंड पावर मंत्री डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्रा ने कहा था :

Minister fears collapse of the main Kosi canal.

यही आधार है इस कालिग अटेंशन का। मैं कहना चाहूंगा मंत्री महोदय से कि यह जो गाज जमा होती है कोसी में वह एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या है।

क्या वह सही है कि उस गाज को बाहर निकालने में बहुत सी कृषि योग्य भूमि भी बरबाद हो रही है?

दूसरा सवाल मेरा है, मंत्री महोदय खुद एक्सपर्ट हैं देश के और इनकी उंगलियों पर, इनकी छाँवों के सामने सारे नक्शे हैं। इनको नक्शे देखने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती तो क्या जब इतनी बड़ी समस्या पैदा है तो स्वयं डा० के० एल० राव साहब बिहार जाकर इस चीज को देखेंगे? मैं जानना चाहूंगा वह कब जा रहे हैं और कब इसको देख रहे हैं?

इसके साथ साथ भारत सरकार के जो एक बरिष्ठ अधिकारी वहाँ भेजे गए हैं वह कब लौट कर आ रहे हैं जिससे उनकी क्या रिपोर्ट है उसकी जानकारी हो सके।

बिहार के विद्युत और सिंचाई मंत्री के बक्तव्य का आधार तो भ्रम है लेकिन यह सवाल जिस योजना के अन्तर्गत भारत है उसके मंत्री वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री की केदार

पाड़े हैं। क्या उनकी धोर से भी भारत सरकार के पास कोई इस सम्बन्ध में उत्तर थाया है ?

एक और बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न की धोर में ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा। कोसी का कन्दोल बहुत कुछ नेपाल से होता है। होता अमूमन यह है कि हमारे जो मन्त्री या अधिका-री जाते हैं उनको नेपाल की धोर से भी होकर इस जगह पहुंचना पड़ता है और बराबर ऐसा होता है कि जब हमारे कोई अधिकारी या मन्त्री जाते हैं अपनी चीज को देखने के लिए तो अपना झंडा उनको उतार देना पड़ता है और परमीशन लेनी पड़ती है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इस सम्बन्ध में भी मन्त्री महोदय स्पष्ट कहें कि जब इतनी बड़ी बात है, 80 करोड़ रुपया हमारा लगा है तो कम से कम एक इस तरह की बात नेपाल के साथ होनी चाहिए कि जब अपनी चीज को देखने के लिए जायें तो अपनी इज्जत को साथ लेकर जाएं और परमीशन नहीं लेनी पड़े तथा झंडा भी न उतारना पड़े। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं चाहूंगा कि यह जो महत्व-पूर्ण सवाल हमारे सामने पैदा हो गया है उसको भारत सरकार उत्तने ही महत्व से देखे और तत्काल इस सम्बन्ध में जो समस्या उपस्थित है उसका समाधान करे।

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. member asked whether any communication has been received from Bihar. As I submitted, in regard to the recent erosion that has taken place, I have not received any letter from Bihar. But I am sure they must have been very busy tackling this problem. As soon as I heard about it, I sent an officer there to find out the details. It is not so much the question of silt; that is under control; the canal erosion that has taken place is more serious. If the canal is widened, it will mean that a lot of money will have to be spent for lining. We must try to attend to it when the width is

limited, when it is not widened. Then the cost will be much less. It will be only Rs. 1-1½ crores for lining the first 2-1½ miles. Otherwise, it will cost very much more.

Therefore it is that I am sending an officer immediately to decide what type of lining is to be done and so on and to do something at least before the kharif season commences.

The hon. member raised the question of our relationship with Nepal. Our relationship with Nepal is extremely cordial. We have found no difficulty in the inspection of our works in Nepal territory. I must submit that so far as the relations between India and Nepal are concerned, we are very happy at the amount of co-operation we are getting in the mutually beneficial work we are undertaking in connection with various river projects and so on.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: I want to know when the hon. Minister is going there to personally visit the area.

DR. K. L. RAO: I am sorry I did not reply to that question. It will be my privilege to go there as soon as possible. First, the Committee that I am going to send will go there and start implementing some work, and I hope to be there in the month of May.

श्री चिरंजीव झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक प्रश्न मैंने किया था, उसका जवाब उन्होंने नहीं दिया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : भाप दोबारा क्यों खड़े हो गए ? कोई चीज रह गई है तो उसी समय पूछ लेना चाहिए था।

श्री चिरंजीव झा : मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि बिहार सरकार की बहू शक्ति नहीं है कि कोसी योजना जैसी भीषण खर्च की योजना को अपने बलबूते से चला सके और उसका समाधान निकाल सके, इसलिए सीधे

[श्री बिरंजीव झा]

सिधे भारत सरकार स्वयं उसे अपने प्राधीन कर ले; बिहार सरकार से उस का कोई सम्बन्ध न रहे। पूरे हा में भारत सरकार अपने प्राधीन ले कर उसका काम कराए।

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. Member is saying that for an important work like this, the Government of Bihar does not have enough money and asking whether the Government of India will come to their assistance. In view of the seriousness of the situation, I think it should be possible for the Government of India to help. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry; I am not allowing.

We have seen last year and this year also that the Calling Attention motions take a long time; first they took 15 minutes; then they started taking half an hour and then the Rules Committee, for the third time, took up the matter in the last Session, and decided that in no case it should go beyond 45 minutes. But every day, it goes beyond the zero hour; the so-called zero hour. There is no term called zero hour in the rules. So, the Rules Committee took it up yesterday again and decided that the Speaker should be very strict; that the Minister should be given 10 minutes first, and then 10 minutes for the first Member, and five minutes each for the other Members. Please see that it does not go beyond 45 minutes. Everytime it comes, when the Member who is asked to speak gets up, he just goes on. I am very sorry; either you should follow the rules or you do not decide about time; let it go on as it is, do not fix the time. You must respect the decision of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee took up this matter again.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: This was never communicated to us. If that is so, then let this be followed from today.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: With your permission. Sir, may I make one submission?

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I am not allowing this. If need be, I shall ask him to make a statement. I am not allowing that on the adjournment motion. You will kindly sit down. Do not make it a daily practice. Now, Shri Ganesh.

13.01 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WEALTH TAX (AMDT.) RULES, GIFT-TAX (AMDT.) RULES, COMPANIES (PROFITS) SURTAX (AMDT.) RULES AND NOTIFICATIONS ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Wealth-tax (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 154(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1973, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4731/73.]
- (2) A copy of the Gift-tax (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 155(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1973, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Gift-tax Act, 1958 together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4782/73.]