

14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED IMMINENT IMPOUNDING OF WATER IN PONG DAM, HIMACHAL PRADESH

MR. SPEAKER : Now we take up the Call Attention motion....

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I have something to raise. Shall I raise it now or after the Call-Attention ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not received any intimation from you.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I was out of town, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you are in town. We shall see it tomorrow.

Shri Virbhadra Singh.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा (पाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। काल एटेंशन में जिस विषय पर चर्चा होने वाली है, उस पर 250 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हो चुके हैं। पाग डैम का सवाल आज का नहीं है, 1956 से यह सवाल चल रहा है। इसलिये यह इतनी अर्जेंसी का सवाल नहीं था। 6 करोड़ की जगह अब 45 करोड़ रुपये की मांग कर दी गई है.....

श्री बिक्रम महाजन (कांगड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य को प्राबलम का पता नहीं है... ये 45 करोड़ किस को दिये जायेंगे—ये गरीब आदिमियों के लिये खर्च होंगे.....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Daga, please sit down. This is not a point of order.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, लोक सभा के सदस्यों को प्रान्तीयता और
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क्षीयता से ऊपर उठना चाहिये, ये प्रान्तीयता की बातें करते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह राजस्थान और हिमाचल का झगड़ा है—इसको यहाँ न उठाइये अगर आप भी कोई काल एटेंशन लायेंगे तो उस को भी लिया जा सकता है। लेकिन आप में झगड़ा मत कीजिये। मैं इस तरह से किमो को हजाजत नहीं दे रहा हूँ। I am not allowing any gentleman whose name is not in the call-attention motion. (Interruption)

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH (Mandi) : Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Irrigation and power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—
“Reported imminent impounding of water in Pong Dam, Himachal Pradesh, and the resulting displacement of one lakh people.”

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : A dam across the river Beas to conserve its waters for use in India has been under construction over last 13 years. A stage is now reached, when the waters of the river could be impounded during the coming monsoon and utilised for development of irrigation. This will result in significant benefits in the form of additional foodgrains to the extent of about one million tons. Also with the completion of this dam, the bulk of the monsoon waters of the river Beas which were so far running to Pakistan will be harnessed and put to effective use in India.

This year there will be partial storage of water upto EL 1365 as against the Reservoir level of EL 1400 envisaged in the project report. Towards the end of Rabi irrigation period, the water level in the reservoir will come down to about EL 1200. (The level of the river bed is RL 1100).

[Shri Balgovind Verma]

So far all lands and properties on 58,000 acres out of 71,000 acres have been mostly paid for and acquired. The balance of land will be acquired in a couple of months. As assessed by Himachal Pradesh, partial impounding this year is likely to affect about 14,000 oustee families as against about 20,000 to be affected at maximum reservoir level. Major portion of these families are to be rehabilitated in Rajasthan. For this purpose, Rajasthan Government has set apart about 0.91 lakh hectares (225 lakh acres) of land in the Rajasthan Canal area for allotment at the rate of 6.35 hectares (15.625 acres) per oustee family. Himachal Pradesh Government has undertaken to take care of the remaining families who cannot be accommodated in the above land.

Of the land set apart for the oustees, about 0.445 lakh hectares (1.10 lakh) acres has so far been provided with irrigation facilities. For the balance, while the land is available and will be allotted, perennial irrigation facilities will be extended only after water is stored in the Pong Dam. To do this, partial impounding of water as planned is necessary. Temporary transition arrangements as required, will be provided by the Project.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH :

At the very outset I would like to point out that this Calling attention motion is not aimed against Rajasthan or any other State. It is mainly intended to bring our difficulties to the attention of the hon. Minister and to seek redress for the same.

I have very carefully gone through the statement of the hon. Minister and I must say that I am being disappointed by it. I find in it a tendency on the part of the Minister to shift the responsibility on to somebody else.

Sir, I do not want to go into the entire history of this matter because the hon. Minister is well aware of it. The matter was raised in this House also more than

once in the past. Briefly stated the cause is that as a result of construction of the Pong Dam about 20,000 families are going to be ousted and displaced. After much difficulty and after much procrastination, we got 2.25 lakhs of acres of land ear-marked by the Rajasthan Government in Rajasthan for the rehabilitation of these oustees. Now this dam is almost ready and the Government is thinking of impounding water in it from the next month, *i.e.* May as a result of the impounding of water, the water level in the dam is expected to rise to 1365' which will affect about 14,000 families, as admitted in the statement of the Minister itself.

Now, out of the 2.25 lakh acres of land ear-marked in Rajasthan for the rehabilitation of these oustees only 1.1 lakh acres of land is irrigated at present and the remaining land is unirrigated and dry land. On this 1.1 lakh acre of land only about 6,000 families can be rehabilitated, whereas 14,000 families are going to be affected

Now, we want to know what the Government is going to do about the remaining 7,000 families, the hon. Minister in his statement has said that the Himachal Pradesh Government has undertaken to take care of the remaining families who cannot be accommodated in the above land. But it has been denied by the Himachal Pradesh Government that they have given any such undertaking here, I would like to quote from the letter of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh wrote to hon Dr. K. L. Rao on 6th April 1973. In para 5 of his letter he has stated :

'To put the records straight, I should like to remind you that for the sake of an early decision, I had reluctantly agreed at the Chief Minister's meeting held on the 3/4th September, 1970 that instead of 3.25 lakh acres of land to which 20,000 oustees from Pong Dam area were entitled, we could do with 2.25 lakh acres. . . .

But it has throughout been accepted that the Rajasthan Govt. has in the first instance to provide the 2.25 lakh acres of land for the oustees and it is only after the whole of this land has been utilised for their rehabilitation that Himachal Pradesh Govt. will take up the responsibility of rehabilitating the remaining number of any of oustees. The Rajasthan Government, as such, has to place 2.25 lakh acres of land for rehabilitation of Pong Dam oustees before the question of providing rehabilitation in H.P. for such oustees who could not get land in Rajasthan arises."

So, this is the position. It is quite clear that Himachal Pradesh Government gave no undertaking to rehabilitate any oustees as such. What they said was that the Rajasthan Government was to give 2.25 lakh acres. After that land was utilised, if there were any oustees left, they would be looked after by the Himachal Pradesh Government. From the hon. Minister's statement, it is seen that the Rajasthan Government, has not done so. On paper they have done so, but actually only 1.1 lakh acres is available. This is my point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not permitting it. We do not allow any others except those whose names are there in the Calling Attention motion.

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH : The Rajasthan Government has made available only 1.1 lakh acres as against 2.25 lakh acres which was stipulated earlier. Therefore, I would like to know.

(Interruptions).

प्रश्नकर्ता : क्या लोग बार बार क्यों उठते हैं ? अगर कोई गलत बात कहेंगे तो मिनिस्टर उसका जवाब देंगे। आप लोग क्यों तकलीफ कर रहे हैं।

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH : 2.25 lakh acres of land was not given. Only 1.1 lakh acres of land was given in which the people could immediately be rehabilitated. The rest of the land is barren. You cannot ask people from Himachal Pradesh to go to Rajasthan and settle down on barren land. Keeping this in view, will the hon. Minister give an undertaking to this House that impounding of water in the Dam will be deferred till such time as that the oustees are properly rehabilitated? In this connection, I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister. If he thinks that is not in national interest to defer the impounding of water, then I have a suggestion and I can tell him about a way out. I believe that there is still more irrigated land available with the Rajasthan Government which they have kept for allotment to other categories in their own State. You can persuade the Rajasthan Government to make that land available for rehabilitating these 7,000 odd extra families. It is not a charity that we are asking; we are only asking for rehabilitation facilities; these people are being ousted from their hearths and homes and they have got to be rehabilitated.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take up with the Rajasthan Government the question of getting additional irrigated land from them for rehabilitation of these extra 7,000 or so families. If that is not possible, will Government give an undertaking that the water in the dam will not be impounded till such time as all these oustees are rehabilitated.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER DR. K. L. RAO : The hon. member has asked three questions. He referred to the allotment of irrigated land of 1.10 lakh acres and asked what about the balance. I would submit here that the Rajasthan canal depends entirely on the water from the Beas river. In the Beas there is not adequate amount of water to irrigate all the land in

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

Rajasthan in Rabi period. They require some impounding even for irrigating the 1·10 lakh completely at present the intensity will be low. It depends on the run of the water; in a good year, it may be there, but in a bad year, we cannot supply adequate water without impounding.

The whole function of the Pong Dam is to provide storage, to enable land in Rajasthan and Punjab to be irrigated. That is the main function of the project. In any case, whether we do it this year or next year or afterwards, there will be a certain period of six months when water cannot be given for all the land. The water has to be impounded first 1·25 lakh acres have been set apart for the oustees of the Pong dam. In regard to the 1·10 lakh acres in the Anupgarh branch, very good lands are there towards the end. Similarly in the next branch Fugal it is called, they have got very good land. The water to this area can probably be taken in the months of December or January. But if there is no water in the Pong Dam, you cannot reach that area, or anywhere. Even in the Anupgarh branch, we cannot have it, whether it is 1·10 lakh acres or 2 lakh acres or 4 lakh acres. Unless the water is impounded at least partially water supply cannot be given. So, this problem will remain.

I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. member of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Chief Minister who has very often represented this to us, correctly too, about the sufferings of these people. These people do not belong to Himachal Pradesh alone, they belong to India. They are our nationals and it is our responsibility to see that their suffering is reduced to the minimum there is no question about that. I have submitted in the statement every care will be taken, money will be provided, whether it is for a temporary arrangement and so on whatever money is required, we are fully prepared to do it because they are our citizens, our people, there is no question of their being neglected. If the hon. Member has any suggestions to make as to how to reduce the suffering of those people, we are fully prepared to consider them.

There are two alternatives: either to close the two tunnels which we have not yet done and store up the water and use it for irrigation purposes in this area to produce more food, or to keep these open for a year, or 1½ years till next July and allow things to take their own course.

In this connection we must remember one thing. In Pakistan, the Mangla dam was started at about the same time as the Pong Dam in 1959-60, with about the same capacity and the same cost. That project was completed in 1967 6 years ago, and they are enjoying the benefits of it.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra)
Because of your inefficiency.

DR. K. L. RAO : Quite agree. What I am trying to say is that in this case, whatever may be the reasons, it may be anything; I quite accept it; the solid fact remains that while the Jhelum water is being utilised by Pakistan we are allowing the Beas water to go waste even after the lapse of 13 years.

Therefore, it is our duty to see that the waters are put to maximum use as early as possible. I do not say that this year, the next year or the year after we shall be able to do it. But that is our national duty. There are two things; this is the first national duty. The other national duty is that we should rehabilitate the affected people with the least amount of suffering. Between these two, we will have to find out a way, and we shall be glad to have some constructive suggestions from the hon. Member.

The other point that the hon. Member made is with regard to the land to be allotted in the Rajasthan canal area for oustees. Whenever the land allotted, is located there will be some difficulty. For the rabi crop, there will be no water. All the same I will request the Rajasthan Government whether they can allot additional land in areas where the water is flowing in canals. But I do not think there will be any benefit coming from that.

MR. SPEAKER : Out of the total time given for this subject, after allowing the four or five Members to speak, the Minister will get 10 minutes. So, please adjust yourself accordingly.

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, Sir. I understand that the area in Rajasthan, proposed for allotment to oustees is a good area. I will talk to the Rajasthan Government on the suggestion made by him.

श्री प्रताप सिंह (शिमला) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे से पहले जिन्होंने प्रस्ताव पेश किया उन्होंने इस बात को साफ साफ जाहिर किया कि हमें राजस्थान से कोई झगडा नहीं है और मुझे भी व्यक्तिगत रूप से नहीं है। झगडा यह है कि मंत्री महोदय, इस बात को मानते हैं कि इस बांध को बनाते हुए 13 साल गुजर चुके हैं और इतने समय में लोगों को बसाने के प्रबन्ध में देरी हुई है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस का कौन जिम्मेदार है? जब कि हिमाचल प्रदेश की सरकार इस बात की कोशिश में रही और सदन में हम लोग इस बात पर ध्यान दिलाते रहे कि वहाँ से जो लोग हटाये जायेंगे उन को जल्दी से जल्दी ठीक ढंग से बसाया जाय। 1970 में मीटिंग हुई, उससे पहले 1966 में मीटिंग हुई मुख्य मंत्रियों की और चीफ सेक्रेटरीज की और उस में यह तय हुआ कि 2.25 लाख एकड़ जमीन राजस्थान सरकार देगी जिस पर बिल्थापित होने वाले लोगों को बसाया जायगा। लेकिन जब बसाने की बात आई लगातार उस में कोई न कोई भ्रष्टचल राजस्थान सरकार की तरफ से पेश की गयी जिस की ओर बराबर सरकार का ध्यान हम लोग दिक्कत रहे। लेकिन वह मामला वहीं का वहीं पड़ा हुआ है। आज 13 साल बाद पानी भरने की तैयारी है और हजारों लोग वहाँ

से उजड़ जायेंगे, उस के लिये आज सरकार को चिन्ता हुई। लेकिन इस से पहले सरकार को कोई चिन्ता नहीं हुई कि उन लोगों को जल्दी से जल्दी बसाया जाय। तो जहाँ आज 13 साल तक सकते हैं वहाँ अगर उस को एक साल और रोक दिया जाय और लोगों को ठीक ढंग से बसा दिया जाय तो कोई आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिये। इन लोगों को ठीक ढंग से बसाने के मार्ग में अगर किसी तरफ से कोई कमी या खामी है तो मैं चाहूँगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार उन लोगों को रीहैबिलिटेट करने का काम अपने हाथ में ले ले और उन को ठीक ढंग से बसाये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जितने भी लोग हैं सारे के सारे किसान हैं, कोई शहरी आदमी नहीं है। वे लोग छोटे, गरीब और हरिजन तथा पिछड़े हुए लोग हैं। क्या उन को आज इस तरह से पानी भरने के बाद कहेँगे कि जहाँ चाहो चले जाओ? अभी मंत्री जो ने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है कि उन लोगों को बसायेंगे तो जहाँ इस काम में 13 साल का समय बीत गया वहाँ कुछ दिन और इंतजार करे, पहले उन लोगों को बसा लें तब पानी भरे।

क्या मंत्री जी इस बात का अवश्वसन दिलायेंगे कि ढाई टनल उस वक्त तक बन्द नहीं होंगे जब तक कि उन को पूरी तरह नहीं बसा देंगे? इस के साथ ही अभी तक आज ने बहुत से लोगों को मुआवजा भी नहीं दिया है। अब अगर अगर कम्पेन्सेशन के पानी भर देंगे तो उस का जिम्मेदार कौन होगा? यह इल्लीगल प्रोसीजर जो होगा उस की जिम्मेदारी किस पर होगी, इस का भी मंत्री

श्री प्रताप सिंह

जी जबाब दे। अस्त में मैं मंत्री जी से यह प्रार्थना कि जब तक आप लोगों को पूरी तरह बसा नहीं देंगे और 2.25 लाख एकड़ भूमि उन के लिये प्रवेलएबिल नहीं करते उस वक्त तक आप बंध में पानी भरने में और इरिगेट करने में जल्दी नहीं करेंगे ?

[DR. K. L. RAO: The position is that out of Rs.28 crores, about Rs.25 crores had been paid and the balance of Rs. 3 crores will be paid straightaway. We hope that in the next two months it will be possible to complete the acquisition of the entire area and money is ready and it will be given straightway

The hon. Member suggests : why not the Central Government take over rehabilitation ? I concede rehabilitation is a very difficult problem, especially because these people are living in a beautiful area like Himachal Pradesh with its beautiful valleys. It is difficult for them to go to some other area which is desert-like. But a situation has been imposed on us. Rehabilitation is not a matter for the Centre or the State alone; the Centre should be prepared to give financial and other assistance, but rehabilitation has essentially to be done with the complete co-operation and authority of the Himachal Government. The Chief Minister of that State has been calling our attention to this problem and he had written some letters about the sufferings of the people and this matter has got to be further discussed.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : Nowhere have the farmers received such a raw deal as at the hands of the Ministry of Irrigation; never have they been treated so shabbily and the misery which they are going to face is going to be one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, I am constrained to say that the shabby treatment leaves one with the impression that this Ministry must be deliberately trying to

sabotage the entire programme of the Prime Minister to alleviate the conditions of the weaker sections, especially the farmer in this country. For three consecutive years, right from 1970, the hon. Minister has been giving assurances in this House and in the Rajya Sabha that he would not impound water in this dam till the oustees were rehabilitated. An assurance was given here on 11-3-1970. Did the Minister not realise at that time that he could not implement his assurance ? I should like to quote from his assurance in Rajya Sabha : "It is true that we said, I still repeat, that we will not allow any impounding of water in the reservoir till the oustees are settled properly. I want to submit that we are not going to impound water till all these people are taken care of."

How can he go back on these assurances ? He has given a solemn assurance in this House and in the Rajya Sabha. Will he reiterate the assurance he gave on two occasions ?

If not, what is the remedy of the Members to see that those assurances are implemented ? This is the second question, a question to you, Mr. Speaker, Thirdly, will you appoint a parliamentary committee to go into the entire question to see why this assurance is not implemented ? That is one aspect of the question .

Is it not a fact that he assured the H.P. Government that 2.25 lakhs would be available and till that land was given to the oustees, water would not be impounded ? Will he stick to that assurance and ask the Rajasthan Government to first provide for the settlement of 7,000 in Rajasthan ? Then, the balance 7,000 may be resettled in Rajasthan first. Will Rajasthan provide the land ? We want a clarification on this point also.

We want clarifications on this also. We want an assurance from the hon. Minister that he will stick to what he said in the other House. I have asked a specific question. Let him give his specific answer if possible.

DR. K.L. RAO: The hon. Member just now referred to my assurance given earlier. That assurance still stands. At the same time, there should be cooperation forthcoming from the other side as well. We have, for example, sent about 1,000 people last month. (Interruptions) but barely 280 people turned up.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : Sir, the hon. Minister is not giving the correct figure only 300 people have been sent.

DR. K.L. RAO : Even today we are anxious that oustees must be settled properly. There is no question about that. It cannot be done by one side alone. Their should be cooperation from all sides. This assurance, for example, was given in 1970. It was expected that that dam would be completed earlier. But, that was not possible. Negotiations were still going on with the Himachal Pradesh Government. Only recently an agreement was arrived at and we are trying to do our best. What I want to submit here is that there should be some constructive cooperation between various sectors. We are trying to develop the country and, therefore, we are fully prepared to do that even today. We do not want to impound the water, thereby making the people suffer. If it is the will of the House to impound water, we may do it. How is it possible for us without the cooperation of the hon. Member? The hon. Member is very good to me outside. But, it is not so when he is in the House. As I submitted earlier, if we get the cooperation of all the people, we will be able to solve this problem. Rajasthan Government has to give them the lands, And there is no doubt about it. At any moment they may have to give them the lands.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : Sir, he has given an assurance to this House. On the basis of that I have put a specific question. He must answer that question specifically.

शुभचक सहोदय : आप दोनों खड़े हो जाते हैं, इस तरह झगड़ने से तो मतला हल नहीं होता मैं तो यही कहूँ कि आप दोनों का

झगड़ा इस तरह से हल हो सकता है कि आप सारा पानी पंजाब को दे दें, हम पंजाब में सब को बसा लेंगे।

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking him a specific question I want a specific reply from him. I can only ask the hon. Minister to reply to my question. But, he has not replied.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Rao, he has asked a specific question about the reiteration of the assurance.

DR. K.L. RAO : As I submitted earlier, regarding the rehabilitation of these people, cooperation from the other side also must come forth.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : I have quoted that assurance and I requested him to give me a clarification. The assurance was given in the House. What is the value of such an assurance ?

MR. SPEAKER : You will kindly sit down. The Minister has just now replied to that.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : He has specifically stated that all the people would be taken care of and that all of them would be rehabilitated. This is what he had said in the House. He cannot wriggle out of that.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : In so other part of the country has there been such a devastation as in Himachal Pradesh. When Bhakra was constructed Hamirpur and Bilaspur were submerged; when Pong Dam is being constructed, it is the turn of Dehra Tehsil of Kangra District. Pong Dam has caused devastation of lands belonging to these people. Whatever Dr. Rao may talk about the people of this area, the sons of Himachal Pradesh are busy in defending their motherland. They are ready to shed the last drop of their blood for the defence of the country. And their families are treated most shabbily by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

Sir, may I bring to your notice the assurance given by the hon. Minister, Dr. K.L. Rao, on 11th March, 1970 in answer to Short Notice Question No. 4 ?

Shri Hem Raj asked :

"If the time-schedule is adhered to and all these families are ousted, will Government ensure that until and unless all the rehabilitation facilities are provided there, these families will not be ousted."—

—I repeat, "will not be ousted"—
"from that place and the work on the Pong Dam will be stopped."

—I repeat, "will be stopped"—
"till that time ?"

The Minister replied :

"As I expect, about 12,000 families will be ousted by June 1971 if the present programme of construction is followed. I can assure the hon. member that unless these oustees are properly settled and their convenience is attended to, we shall not allow any impounding of water"

—I emphasize, "shall not allow any impounding of water"—

"in the Beas river and any construction of the dam across the river."

Here are thousands of families which are weeping. We are happy that in drought-stricken areas new railway lines are sanctioned. But in this beautiful valley, 30 KM of railway lines have been submerged. Army communication lines and defence communication lines have been submerged. On the one hand we have a Minister like Dr. Karan Singh who sent in his resignation when an Avro crashed. On the other hand, we have here a Minister who is not ready to listen to the cries, the wails and the sufferings of the people of this beautiful valley. May I ask you, Sir, to examine this question as a breach of privilege of this House, as he is backing out of a solemn assurance

given here ? This is not impounding of water; this is impounding of the tears of these people that will wet the "pages of history to come. And, Dr. Rao will be personally responsible for it. His army of engineers, officials and contractors have fattened themselves on the spoils of this dam, but they have dug the grave of the people of Himachal Pradesh. The promise given by him to this House is not being kept. He is backing out of that assurance and saying now that 7,000 families will be rehabilitated by the H.P. Government. At no time Dr. Parmar, our leader, has said that he will rehabilitate 7,000 families. I challenge Dr. Rao to produce a single line to prove that Dr. Parmar or any one of the hon. members from H.P. in this House or in Rajya Sabha said that 7,000 families will be resettled in H.P. At no time was it ever said All that Dr. Parmar said is, after the rehabilitation on 2.25 acres of land in Rajasthan is completed, Himachal Pradesh would look to those who were not settled. Now we are being asked to see that we rehabilitate 7,000 families. All for what ? To cover up the inefficiency of his officers and engineers and their acts of great destruction and devastation towards the people of H.P. We demand that either the Minister should stick to his words or he should see to it that the people do not suffer any longer. The people of H.P. have committed no crime, burnt no trains, stopped no engineer on work, attacked no Government officer. The Dogra Regiment and the people of Kangra have sacrificed their lives for the defence of the country. Our people have willingly sacrificed for turning the desert of Rajasthan into a blooming valley. But this is the shabby treatment we have received at the hands of this Ministry. It should be rectified and the people who are living there, the widows, the sick and the others, should not be allowed to become victims of the inefficiency of the officers of the ministry.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir,
the hon. Member..

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : We want a reply from Dr. Rao because he gave the assurance.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : When Dr. K.L. Rao is present here, he should reply to this.

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied to three questions. The Deputy Minister wants to reply to one question at least.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I have specifically quoted the words of Dr. K.L. Rao. So, I want the reply to come from the beautiful lips of Dr. Rao.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We are not going back on our words.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN : We are not going to listen to him.

MR. SPEAKER : His lips are also equally beautiful.

DR. K.L. RAO : Except that my hon. colleague wanted to reply, there is no other reason for his trying to give a reply. Here I want to submit that we want all round co-operation to solve this problem. Even now we stick to the assurance that we would like to settle down all the oustees before we impound the water. We are not impounding the water now, but will be doing so only after some time. We want the oustees to be settled. We have a programme of settling 2,500 people every month and we hope in another two or three months we will be able to complete the work of rehabilitation. But there should be co-operation from the people. (interruptions) I have already submitted that the land is there and people would be resettled.

We stick to whatever we have said before. We want to settle the oustees before regular impounding is started. But for that we require the utmost co-operation from the Himachal Pradesh Government from the hon. Members of this House and the people of that area in order to achieve

the noble purpose of adding one million tonnes of foodgrains to this very heavily deficit country of ours.

12.45 hrs.

RE. CLOSURE OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

SHRI S.A. SHAMIM (Srinagar) : Sir, I had given notice of a Calling Attention on the closure of the Aligarh Muslim University. I understand that it has not been admitted. While the UP Assembly is going to discuss the closure of the Aligarh Muslim University, we are deprived of an opportunity to do so. How do we discuss the Aligarh Muslim University ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसको मैं देखूंगा

SHRI S.A. SHAMIM : Sir, you have admitted a Calling Attention on the stopping of trains due to shortage of coal. When the UP Assembly is going to discuss the Aligarh Muslim University, how can you deprive Parliament from discussing it, especially when it is a Central University ? The entire Muslim community is agitated over this very serious issue. The Government of India can afford to ignore the Muslims, but you should not ignore the Muslims. If you do not allow the Calling Attention, how and when do I raise it ?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister referred to it twice already. In the reply to the Demands for Grants on the Education Ministry this point was replied to only two or three days back.

SHRI S.A. SHAMIM : I am referring to the closure of the Aligarh University for an indefinite period. It is said that the law and order situation has deteriorated. Several vested interests are active and it is being exploited by a political party. So, it is in the best interests of the ruling party that we have a discussion on the floor of the House. When will this House have an opportunity to discuss this vital problem.