

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : I have been the watchdog.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Madhu Limaye's point was, the case about rags was pending from year to year. But, so far as Mr. Banerjee's point is concerned...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are not referring to that.

MR. SPEAKER : He does not spare any moment, to bring in this. I remember, this is the third occasion, in these ten days, when he has raised this issue. This is not under consideration. It is just being laid. Mr. Madhu Limaye's point is that this subject of rags has been pending.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, let not an impression be created...

MR. SPEAKER : You have mentioned this particular item on various occasions five or six times. After all, there is a limit to this.

SHRI SEZHIAN : Sir, in this case, my submission is this. We are going to discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of the Commerce Ministry. If we do not have the report, what use is there in discussing this? We should have the report.

MR. SPEAKER : We cannot send back this report. It is already printed and laid. It is the stage of laying it. As far as other matters are concerned, you can mention them at the time when the Demands for Grants in respect of the Commerce Ministry are taken up.

13. 17 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. TALKS HELD IN DACCA ON GANGA WATERS

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Farakka is a long standing issue which, in the past, concerned India and erstwhile Pakistan and which now concerns India and Bangladesh. With the emergence of Bangladesh, a new relationship of mutual understanding and friendship has been established. In May, 1974, the Prime Ministers of India

and Bangladesh agreed that this issue should be approached with understanding so that the interests of both the countries are reconciled and difficulties removed in a spirit of friendship and co-operation. Both the sides expressed that they would arrive at a mutually acceptable allocation of water available during the periods of minimum flow in the Ganga.

This House has been informed from time to time regarding the progress made on the construction of the Farakka Barrage Project. This is the biggest project of its kind in our country and posed unique problems of foundation and river diversion during construction. The work on the project started in a big way in the year 1963. The barrage structure was completed in 1971. Owing to several reasons, the work on the feeder canal, however, was somewhat delayed but I am happy to inform the House that all the handicaps and difficulties have been overcome and the feeder canal work has now been completed.

After the meeting of the two Prime Ministers in May 1974, the two sides continued their efforts for arriving at a mutually acceptable allocation of the minimum flow in the Ganga. A delegation from Bangladesh led by His Excellency Mr. Abdur Rab Serneabat, Minister for Flood Control, Water Resources and Power visited New Delhi on 24th and 25th February, 1975, for discussions with the Indian delegation led by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation. Although agreement could not be reached at this meeting the discussions marked an important step in understanding the respective viewpoints and enlarging areas of agreement. Last week, an Indian delegation led by me visited Dacca from 16th to 18th April, 1975, when the discussions were continued further. The House will be glad to know that an understanding has been reached during this meeting which enables the Farakka Barrage to be operated and the Feeder Canal to be run during the current lean period. A copy of the agreement is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in library. See No. L T-9531/75*]. Since the feeder canal would be running for the first time, discharges have to be increased gradually so that remedial measures can be taken to rectify if any deficiencies are noticed. It has been agreed by both the countries that the Feeder

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

Canal may be run during the current lean season in the following manner :

Month	Ten-day period	Withdrawal
April, 1975	21st to 30th	11,000 cusecs
May, 1975	1st to 10th	12,000 cusecs
	11th to 20th	15,000 cusecs
	21st to 31st	16,000 cusecs

Joint teams consisting of experts of the two countries will observe, at the appropriate places, in both the countries, the effects of the Farakka withdrawal in Bangladesh and on the Hooghly river for the benefit of the Calcutta Port. A joint team will also be stationed at Farakka to record the discharges into the Feeder Canal and the remaining flows for Bangladesh. The teams will submit their report to both the Governments for consideration.

Since the discussions regarding allocation of the minimum flows of the Ganga during the lean months are continuing between the two Governments the present agreement is a provisional arrangement to enable the running of the feeder canal. This agreement is a break-through for the Farakka issue and sets an outstanding example of mutual understanding and accommodation of the two neighbouring countries in the development of the waters of an international river. It is hoped that this understanding will further reinforce the relations between the two countries and would enable expeditious settlement by negotiations of the Farakka issue on a lasting basis.

I am happy to inform the House that the canal started running at 11 O'clock this morning.

श्री जटल बिहारी बाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोग इस पर बहस करना चाहेंगे। देश में यह तराई है कि यह समझौता संतोषजनक नहीं है। और आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि पश्चिम बंगाल का कोई प्रतिनिधि जो प्रतिनिधि मण्डल ढाका गया था उस में शामिल नहीं किया गया। मैं नहीं जानता ऐसा क्यों हुआ।

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Samar Guha.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.) : Although I am not happy at all that had been stated, I should say that at least

an agreement had been reached with Bangla Desh. That is the most significant point.

MR. SPEAKER : I called you for the next item.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : There are other points which are certainly to be discussed; we will hold a discussion. That discussion may be sensitive at the moment. I congratulate the hon. Minister, he has succeeded.

MR. SPEAKER : Now that you have spoken, you need be given a chance.

13.23 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MEMBER RE.
CERTAIN INFORMATION GIVEN
BY THE HOME MINISTER
ON 8TH APRIL, 1975

RE : INCIDENTS IN CALCUTTA

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.) : I am thankful to you for permitting me to raise this matter....

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly come to the statement. No introduction. That will not form part of the statement. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his speech in Lok Sabha on the 8th April, 1975 the Hon'ble Home Minister by accepting the report sent to him by the Government of West Bengal attributed the cause of violence and rowdism to me. Within a few minutes after the ugly incident of anti-JP demonstration and physical assaults on me and others on the 2nd April, 1975, I had informed to the Home Minister over the phone and communicated to him immediately what actually happened there. Before accepting the statement of the Government of West Bengal, elementary Parliamentary norms and political courtesy demanded that he should have verified from me if I had anything to say about the report. The Home Minister wholly disbelieved me and accepted the report of the West Bengal Government as correct.

In the report, it has been said : Tension however increased subsequently due to counter demonstration by the followers of N.N.S. and the speeches given by Shri Samar Guha, M.P. Shri Samar Guha made the following remarks : "Goondaism is going on under the direction of Indira Gandhi; Indira Gandhi and her favourrite Chief Minister are leaders of goonda gang". Report further