

**Indo-Bangla Panel Re. Sharing of
Ganga Water**

+

*1098. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI A. R. BADRI
NARAYAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Bangla panel regarding sharing of Ganga water has been set up;

(b) if so, who are its members;

(c) what are the powers of the panel; and

(d) whether the recommendations of the panel will be binding on both the parties?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

Statement

(a) to (d). The Ganga Waters Agreement of November, 1977, between India and Bangladesh has two parts. One relates to the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka in the interim stage. For implementation of this part, a Joint Committee consisting of three engineer officers each, nominated by the two Governments, was set up in December, 1977. The committee ensures that the sharing between January and May of the Ganga flows reaching Farakka is in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

The other part of the Agreement relates to augmentation of the flows of the Ganga. For this purpose, both the countries have submitted their own proposals. These proposal are before the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: My first question relates to the second part of the statement. When this agreement was concluded in 1977, whether it was not a fact that it was agreed by both the countries that they will settle the issue by bilateral talks? If so, the latest reports indicate that India has succumbed to international pressure put by Bangladesh that they will include not only Nepal but China also in the talks. Once you have agreed to this thing, why are you shifting from that position?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Both the sides had to give their proposals. The Indian side had to give their own proposal. The Bangladesh side also had to give their own proposal. Both the sides had given their proposal and they are under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you agreed to include China also?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: No.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Was it agreed in 1977 that only through bilateral talks you will settle the proposal and that you will not include any other country? Now, you have shifted from that stand and you are including Nepal also.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: That was a bilateral agreement. The proposal was submitted by both the sides. The Bangladesh proposal includes some storages in Nepal also. So, regarding that, in the meeting of the JRC we have considered to set up a small committee to go into this matter whether we are to approach Nepal also for those proposals, if so, in what manner, we should approach them.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Whether it is not a fact that because of this agreement the Calcutta Port has suffe-

red miserably at least last year? Since it is a long term process, will you take steps to augment supply of water to the Calcutta Port during the lean season so that it survive?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I do not agree that the Calcutta port has suffered a lot during the last year because the minimum water available according to the agreement would have been 20,500 cusecs in the leanest period but during the last two years, the water availability during the leanest period was 29,260 cusecs. So, this was much more than what was provided for. And for supplementing the flows of the water, two schemes have been tendered from both the sides. From the Indian side, there is a proposal for augmenting the water by adding Brahmaputra waters to the Ganga waters through a link canal passing through Bangladesh. On the other side, the Bangladesh proposal envisages some storages in India and some in Nepal also.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: I am surprised to gather from the Minister that the Calcutta Port is running properly. It is not true. In reply to a question also, the Minister has said that there is sufficient water even during the lean season. In fact, a Committee of Parliament which was going to Andamans by ship only two months ago, was detained at Calcutta Port for 24 hours because the tides were not coming. It was given out that the Farakka would flush the Baghirithi. Now the Baghirithi is getting worse day by day because of non-supply of sufficient water during the lean season. I do not know how the Government has come to this type of conclusion. Will he clarify the position?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: They were able to use Calcutta Port because of this Farakka arrangement and not otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 1099 Shri K. S. Veerabhadrapa not here—

निर्माण और प्रवास तथा पूर्ति और सुवर्धन
मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री राम किकर) : प्रत्यक्ष
महोदय, प्रश्न सं० 1099 के अनुसूचक में मुझे
करकशन करनी है। हिन्दी अनुसूचक के कालम 3
में ग्रामीण के स्थान पर शहरी होना चाहिये और
कालम 4 में भी ग्रामीण के स्थान पर शहरी
होना चाहिये।

अन्त में जो 5वा कालम है उसमें जो जोड़
है उसमें 226 के स्थान पर 266 होना चाहिये
और इसी प्रकार से श्रेणी में भी 226 के स्थान
पर 266 होना चाहिये।

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: It will be better if the Minister circulates the amendments among the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Please lay the amended reply on the Table.

Sugar Factories/Khandsari Factories Taken Over in Andhra Pradesh

*1100. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether sugar factories or khandsari factories were taken over by the Government in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the factories taken over; and

(c) whether arrears due to cane growers in the above factories were cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU
PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b).
The Management of two units of Sri
Rama Sugars and Industries Limited
manufacturing sugar at Bobbili and
Sethanagaram in Andhra Pradesh has
been taken over under the Industries
(Development and Regulation) Act,
1951 and the Nizam Sugar Factory
Limited, an undertaking of the State