

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have already made it clear that the previous government had taken a decision to shift the office to Calcutta. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was exploring the possibility of finding suitable accommodation. In the meanwhile, government have received several representations against shifting this and these are being examined. Pending disposal of the representations the government have said that there should be no financial commitment.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I asked a categorical question whether he has received any proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members will bear in mind that it is question hour; it is not a debate. I am constrained to remark that supplementaries should be pointed supplementaries; it has become a sort of a debate. I am not allowing it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: The Minister replied that certain representations had been made and they were being considered. Is it a fact that some interested high officials of this very corporation are finding pleas and they are saying that such representations are being made and if so, will the government be ready to stick to the original proposal?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Representations have been received not only from the officers but also from others; there is a demand; why should it be located in Calcutta, why not in Assam? Such representations have been received and they are being examined now.

Report of the National Flood Control Commission

*133. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Flood Control Commission has submitted a report to Government; and

(b) if so, the salient points thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The National Flood Commission (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) presented its report to the Central Government on 21st March, 1980. It has recommended that flood control should form part of the overall comprehensive planning for water resources development. Master Plans should accordingly be drawn up separately for each river basin. Besides storage reservoirs, these should include afforestation and soil conservation to complement engineering flood control works. The need for flood plain management has also been emphasised to limit the damage due to floods, and the States have been urged to enact suitable legislation for the purpose.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Same reply was given in the Rajya Sabha. I have got the copy of that reply. One part he has left out. He has not read that part.

SHRI KEDAR PANDAY: This question had earlier been asked in the Lok Sabha also. I had replied to that on that day. It has been repeated again. It is rather strange. I have replied to the same question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Then why was it admitted?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I may read out the last portion of the reply given in the Rajya Sabha, before putting the supplementary. "Flood Control is a State subject.."

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not put supplementary instead of reading the answer?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: He has categorically stated that it is a State subject. The matter has been sent to the State.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: What he had stated earlier—'Flood control should form part of the overall comprehensive planning for water resources. This is an All India Planning."

MR. SPEAKER: Please quote yourself and do not quote Rajya Sabha here. No quotation from the Rajya Sabha proceedings please.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: It is his reply, same reply. There is no change of words.

From the reply it is quite clear that this should be part of the overall comprehensive planning for water resources development. Here comes the responsibility of the Central Government. The Report has been submitted on the 21st March. Now three months have passed. My question is, what measures has the Central Government thought over and taken to implement the recommendations of this Flood Control Commission?

SHRI KEDAR PANDAY: The Central Government got the Report on the 21st March, 1980. On 19th April, 1980 the report was sent to all the respective States in the country. We are awaiting reactions and the comments of the State Governments. One thing is here. All the State Governments may be the executive agents of the Plan but unless we get the whole reactions of the State Governments, we shall not be able to take final decision.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Central Government wait for their reaction or will they take initiative to get their proposals within a specified time?

Which State has sent the reply and which have not sent the reply? Please mention the names.

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY: No State Government has sent the reply up till now. Reminders have been sent. We are waiting for their reactions. On the 19th April we have sent the Re-

port. Only two months have passed and we are reminding the State Governments. They should send their reactions. They are the executive agents. They are the main agents of the Executive. Unless we know their reactions, how can we proceed further?

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: There is a comprehensive project called the Dastur Plan, Garland Canal Scheme which touches both the parameters of the Report, viz. development of water resources as well as flood control. Has the Commission given attention to this in the Report to the Government? Has Government gone into the details of the Dastur Plan? It has been hanging fire for the last few years. If Government has gone into the details of the Dastur Plan, what decision has the Government taken?

SHRI KEDAR PANDEY: The Report is there. That has also been placed in the library of Parliament. That is a comprehensive Report. The whole Report has been sent to different State Governments. So, that is also included in this.

Reduction in Radio Licence Fee

*134, **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:** Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the public demand that the radio licence fee should be reduced in the country;

(b) whether in view of income through advertisements on A.I.R., the radio licence fees is proposed to be reduced;

(c) if so, when this scheme will be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION