

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Monday, December 21, 1981 Agra-ha-  
yana 30, 1903 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

श्री राम विलास पासवान : (हाजीपुर) :  
अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने 388 का नोटिस दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : श्री जटिया के  
साथ जी घटा घटो है।

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on  
record

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER: It is under my con-  
sideration.

... (व्यवधान)\*\* ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सब काम हिसाब से  
होते हैं। ये कानून आप ही ने बनाए हैं,  
मैंने तो बनाए नहीं। नियम आप के ही  
बनाए हुए हैं।

... (व्यवधान)\*\* ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने उसी का उपयोग  
किया है।

... (व्यवधान)\*\* ...

MR. SPEAKER: You do not listen to  
anybody and just try to....

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्रीमान जी, मैं यह  
कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर उन को दर्द है,

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तो मुझे भी दर्द है। अगर किताब में  
को कुछ होता है... (व्यवधान)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not disposed  
of that. It is under my consideration  
and tomorrow we shall decide about  
that.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Water Development plans by States

\*414. SHRI SAMAR MUKHER-  
JEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGA-  
TION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Govern-  
ments opposed the idea for an inter-  
State Water Development Plan by  
the Centre and instead wanted to  
form their own water development  
plans with financial assistance from  
the Centre; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Govern-  
ment to that proposal with reasons  
therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI  
Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The  
Hon'ble Member is presumably refer-  
ring to the National Perspective  
for Water Resources Development  
prepared by the Centre. The State  
Government of Kerala has opposed  
this proposal. Other States have  
agreed in principle to the necessity  
of such a proposal.

On inter-State rivers, in order to de-  
rive full benefits from the limited dam  
sites available, plans for optimum  
development have to be prepared tak-  
ing into consideration the potential of  
the storage sites and the requirements

\*\*Not recorded.

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of the region or the country as a whole. Such plans have to be drawn up by the Centre. In view of this fact the Central Government has decided to undertake the work of surveys and investigations of the Peninsular component of the National Perspective by setting up a separate Agency for the purpose. This Agency will work in close co-operation and consultation with the concerned State Governments.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** May it only Kerala Government or Kerala and West Bengal...

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI:** Kerala only.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** May I know what are the reasons advanced by them to oppose this central plan and whether the plan which you are placing just now deprives the State Government of the authority over waters because this means erosion of their rights on waters which they are now enjoying?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):** There are no reasons at all for them for opposing this move. But if somebody unreasonably opposes it, I cannot give reasons.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** That is his opinion. I have asked what reasons have been given by them.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Well, as I have said, they have no valid reasons. There is an unreasonable attitude. How can I say that there is any reason.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** I am not asking his opinion.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** That is only ideological reason.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Have they advanced any reasons while opposing it or not? You are expressing your opinion.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Just now as the hon. Member is feeling, they seem to misunderstand the whole thing. There is misapprehension that the Centre is trying to take rights of the States in its hand. The present proposal is only a matter of investigation. After investigating and surveying the water resources, if there is any distribution to be done, it will be done in consultation with the States. The States' rights are not affected at all. Therefore, the attitude of the Kerala Government, to my mind, is unreasonable.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** I want a categorical assurance that the rights on the Water which are now enjoyed by the States...

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has just explained...

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** I wait that their apprehension should be cleared.

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI:** The Kerala Government, as a matter of fact, has opposed the national perspective plan itself. The attitude they have taken is an objection to the very spirit of the national perspective plan and they have given certain reasons for that. One reason it is that this national perspective plan has been proposed by the Centre whereas 'water' is a State subject. Therefore, the Centre should not come forward with any national perspective plan. The other point is that the Centre should not have any direct hold. Another reason is that as far as surplus water is concerned, in their view, Kerala do not have any surplus water to be transferred from Kerala to Tamilnadu. It is a matter of investigation. The national perspective plan has been prepared with full consideration and it will be decided after full investigation as to whether any State has got surplus water or not Kerala has opposed to these two grounds.

**SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** I want to know when they are bringing in the Bill for this purpose.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** No Bill is required for setting up a National Water Development Agency. We have

not taken any decision about bringing in a legislation under Entry 56. We have been consulting the States. That is a different matter altogether.

**SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:** I wanted to know whether the Government would enunciate a national water policy fixing priorities. For example, if a dispute goes before the Tribunals, they do not have guidelines as such as on date. Do the Government of India want to enunciate a national water policy fixing priorities, like percentage on population-wise and so on, so that it could be a guideline for all the States? Are the Government thinking on those lines?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI:** Sir, the Government is thinking on those lines. The Karnataka Government has suggested that some national water policy should be there. We are considering that point.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** The idea of having a national water perspective plan is a very good one. But I would like to know from the Minister whether in view of the fact that the Southern States are at a great disadvantage vis-a-vis the Northern States, in the sense that the rivers in the Southern States are being utilised to the extent of about 90, 95% whereas the waters in the Northern States are being fairly utilised, the Government is still considering or has rejected the Ganga-Cauvery Link Plan that was presented some time ago?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI:** The national perspective plan is, as a matter of fact an improvement on the earlier two proposals made by Dr. K. L. Rao and Dastur's formula. There are two components in the national perspective plan. In the earlier two proposals, there was a suggestion of linking the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers. Now, there are some difficulties in developing storage sites in the Northern area.

Now, this National Perspective Plan has two components. One component

is to develop all the Himalaya-rivers—Ganga-Brahmaputra basin—and the other component is to develop the peninsular rivers. As far as the Himalayan rivers are concerned, an international angle is also involved in it. Therefore, if we take the two together, it will be unnecessarily delayed. Therefore, the National Perspective Plan has been so designed that we should first try to develop the Peninsular rivers, investigate them and try to divert water from the surplus areas to the scarcity areas. Then, we should take up the other component to develop the Himalayan rivers and we can link both of them.

#### Removal of Restriction on Cutting Forests for Laying Water Lines

\*416. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have debarred all State Governments, except with prior approval of Central Government, from making any orders directing restrictions of dereservation of forests or use of forest land for non-forest purpose vide Forest (Conservation) Ordinance (No. 17 of 1980);

(b) whether use of forest land or cutting of trees even for laying down pipes of the Drinking Water Supply Schemes was objected to by the Forest Officers;

(c) if so, whether Government would take into account difficulties caused by this Order and exempt use of forest land or cutting of trees to the extent to which it becomes unavoidable for construction of Drinking Water Supply Schemes, in view of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990);

(d) if so, when a decision would be taken in this regard;

(e) whether any rules, as contemplated in the said Ordinance, have been framed; and