

**COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): I beg to present a petition from the employees of the All-India Coffee Board relating to the Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill, 1954.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

CANAL WATERS DISPUTE

Shri Raghuraj Sahai (Etah Dist.—North East cum Budaun Dist.—East):

Under Rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan at a Press Conference in Pakistan on the 15th July, 1954, regarding the Canal Waters Issue.”

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): Sir, in connection with the dispute between India and Pakistan regarding the utilisation of the waters of the Indus system of rivers it would not be desirable for me, at this stage, to deal with the controversial aspects of matters which are still the subject of negotiation, between the two countries. I shall, however, acquaint the House with the present position in respect of this dispute.

The House will recall that on the 4th May, 1948, the Governments of India and Pakistan entered into an Agreement by which India was progressively to diminish the supply of waters to Pakistan canals as Pakistan tapped alternative sources of supply. Not much progress could, however, be made in the implementation of this agreement till, towards the end of 1951, the President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and

Development suggested, that the Bank would be prepared to lend its good offices in resolving the dispute.

The Governments of India and Pakistan accepted in March, 1952, the proposal of the Bank that a Working Party should be set up consisting of engineers of India and Pakistan, who would be assisted by engineers of the Bank, with the object of preparing, for the consideration of the two Governments, a comprehensive plan for the development of the water resources of the Indus region, so that the river supplies effectively available to each country would be increased substantially beyond what they had ever been. It was agreed also at that time that neither party would, while joint work was in progress, diminish the supplies of water available to the other side for existing uses. It will readily be appreciated that though this condition was expressed as a mutual obligation, it was a condition which bound India alone; for Pakistan does not supply any waters to India. This unilateral restriction was, however, accepted by the Government of India solely in the interest of a speedy settlement. It was not expected at that time that the work of the Working Party would take very long.

From May, 1952, till August, 1953, the engineers of the two sides, assisted by Engineers of the Bank, collected a vast amount of statistical and engineering data required for the preparation of the comprehensive plan. In September, 1953, the Working Party, equipped with this material, met in Washington and attempted for almost five months to prepare an agreed plan. These efforts met, however, with no success and on the 5th February, 1954, the Bank, finding that there was no prospect of further discussions proving fruitful, presented a proposal to the Working Party, which, in its view would produce a fair and economic result for both countries.