

Indian Delegation to the Twelfth World Health Assembly held at Geneva in May, 1959 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1597/59]

**NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, a copy of Notification No F 12(142)/55-Transport, dated the 9th July, 1959, published in Delhi Gazette [Placed in Library, See No LT-1598/59]

**NOTIFICATION ISSUED UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT**

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A M Thomas): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No G S R. 980, dated the 24th August, 1959, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1599/59]

12.27 hrs

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha —

I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 4th September, 1959, has passed the enclosed motion referring the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Bill, 1959, by Shri Kailash Bihari Lall, to a Joint Committee of the Houses and to request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha in the said motion and the names of the Members of the Lok Sabha to be appointed to the said Joint Committee may be communicated to this House.

**MOTION**

"That the Bill to provide for the supervision and control of orphanages, homes for neglected

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women or children and other like institutions and for matters connected therewith be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 members, 10 members from this House, namely —

Dr W S Barlingay, Shri Deol kinandan Narayan, Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam, Shri Ram Sahai, Shri M H Samuel, Shri D A. Mirza, Shri N C Sekhar, Shri Kamta Singh, Shri V Venkataramana, Shri Kailash Bihari Lall

and 20 members from the Lok Sabha,

that in order to constitute a meeting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee,

that in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Select Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Chairman may make,

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session; and

that this House recommends to the Lok Sabha that Lok Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee."

12.28 hrs

**ACCIDENT TO HOIST CHAMBER IN NANGAL**

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): Sir, in continuation of the statement, I made on 2nd September, 1959, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that the Board of Consultants, Bhakra Dam met on the 6th September, 1959 under the chairmanship of Dr A. N. Khosla to consider the measures to be

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taken to repair the damage to the hoist chamber and restore normal conditions of work at the Bhakra Dam. Mr. M. H. Slocum, Shri Kanwar Sain and Shri S. D. Khungar attended the meeting as members of the Board. The recommendations of the Board, which were unanimous, were considered by the Bhakra Control Board at a meeting held this morning in New Delhi. After hearing Mr. M. H. Slocum and considering the report of the Board of Consultants, the Board passed the following resolution:

"The Board has considered the reports of the Board of Consultants and the General Manager, Bhakra Dam on the accident to the Hoist Chamber and has heard Mr. M. H. Slocum."

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareilly): Sir, may I suggest that the statement be laid on the Table of the House? It looks to be very long.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Sir, I would suggest that it may be read in the House, because we are anxious to hear it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it a long one?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: It is not very long; only two pages.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may read it.

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim:

"...It is pleased to note the complete accord and the sense of partnership which exist between Mr. Slocum, the Board of Consultants and the Bhakra Dam Administration. It is in entire agreement with them that the most pressing need of the hour is energetic action to repair the damage to the hoist chamber and the undertaking of measures to restore normal conditions of work at Bhakra Dam in the quickest possible time.

"The Board appreciates the necessity of changing the existing

procedures and methods which are not completely suitable for quick action, and resolves that they be modified suitably to meet the present emergency.

The Board has full confidence in the ability of the Board of Consultants and the Bhakra Dam Administration of which Mr. Slocum is a full partner to tackle the job successfully and in a manner which will be both expeditious and economical.

The Board endorses the action taken so far by the project authorities and approves of the recommendations made by the Board of Consultants in regard to:

(a) the broad features of the scheme for carrying out the necessary remedial measures; and

(b) the steps indicated and the delegations proposed to facilitate expeditious completion of the work."

Work will now proceed in accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Consultants.

I brought to the notice of the House that an attempt made on 30th August, 1959, to lower a steel gate into the cable gallery to act as a stop log was unsuccessful. We have been informed that a second attempt will be made on or about the 9th September, 1959, to lower a heavier gate. Although the gate is ready, it is considered necessary to give some time for the concrete framework to set.

I am laying the Report of the Board of Consultants, Bhakra Dam on the Table of the House.

*Sixteenth Report of the Board of Consultants, Bhakra Dam*

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Board of Consultants was held at the office of the Bhakra Dam Designs Directorate on 6th September, 1959, under

the Chairmanship of Dr. A. N. Khosla. Mr. M. H. Slocum, Shri Kanwar Sain and Shri S. D. Khungar attended as Members of the Board. Shri M. R. Chopra, General Manager, Bhakra Dam and Shri P. S. Bhatnagar, Director, Bhakra Dam Designs Directorate, were also present.

2. Scheme for closure of the Right Diversion Tunnel subsequent to the damage to the Hoist Chamber was considered in this meeting. The following information was conveyed to the Board by the General Manager, Bhakra Dam:

Due to this damage, uncontrolled supply is passing through the Hoist Chamber and gate-control structure. The reservoir level at present is 1444 +. The down-stream water level is at El 1184. The discharge passing through the adit tunnel connecting the Hoist Chamber and the Dam galleries is of the order of 5,000 cusecs. A discharge of about 4,500 cusecs is also passing through the Right Diversion Tunnel.

3. Various remedial measures were discussed for closure of the Right Diversion Tunnel and plugging of the Hoist Chamber. The Board of Consultants approve the following scheme in broad outlines:

- (i) Choking the entry at the up-stream portal of the Right Diversion Tunnel by suitable methods, e.g., placing concrete bags, crates, rock-fill etc with a view to retain control of the outflow from Bhakra reservoir by means of El. 1320-irrigation outlets and to reduce the residual head into the Right Diversion Tunnel below the point of entry. If this object is not achieved fully by the date the reservoir level falls below El 1340 + (the level required for control from El 1320-outlets), the extent of choking of the tunnel will have to be modified and the releases from the reservoir continued

through the Right Diversion Tunnel.

- (ii) Constructing a by-pass tunnel of a suitable size by-passing the Hoist Chamber to take care of the expected volume of discharge through the Right Diversion Tunnel at the time of the by-pass tunnel coming into operation, such that the head of water at the entry of this by-pass tunnel is not higher than El 1210, which is 5½ feet lower than the floor of the Hoist Chamber and the adit tunnel. Constructing an approach tunnel to give access for carrying out construction operations of the above by-pass tunnel.
- (iii) A hoist shaft opening from El 1360 which should provide a bulk head arrangement in the by-pass tunnel.
- (iv) Arrangement for plugging the damaged Hoist Chamber including the temporary cut-offs up-stream and down-stream of the Hoist Chamber.

4. For the expeditious and effective implementation of the above scheme, the Board recommends the following measures:

- (i) *Foreign Exchange*: A bulk amount of Rs 45 lakhs of foreign exchange is to be placed at the disposal of Bhakra Dam Administration for procurement of equipment and material required for this emergency and for repairing the damage to the Power House equipment.
- (ii) *Procurement procedure*: The normal procedure for purchase of equipment or material required for this emergency need not be followed. No advertisements need issue for bids and, if necessary, even bids may not be called and purchases made from the

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market. The Bhakra Dam Administration must be authorised to accept the terms at which this material can be procured. However, the General Manager should inform the Bhakra Control Board about all such purchases over Rs. 10,000.

- (iii) **Priorities:** Over-riding priorities must be arranged for controlled materials, such as steel sections, reinforcement, plates, wire etc.
- (iv) **Sanction of additional staff:** Additional staff will be required in the various Directorates of the Bhakra Dam Administration during this emergency. The General Manager, Bhakra Dam, is to be authorised to sanction this staff and report to the Bhakra Control Board.

(v) **Changes in Establishment:**

- (a) No changes are to be made in the experienced personnel employed in connection with the Bhakra Dam except at the initiative and/or concurrence of the General Manager, Bhakra Dam.
- (b) Shri R. Mehta must continue as Liaison and Transport Officer.
- (c) The Technical Attache in Washington along with Staff must continue till the emergency is over.
- (vi) **Bonus to workmen:** The General Manager, Bhakra Dam, should be authorised to pay bonus or cash awards to the workmen employed on the jobs connected with this emergency upto 50 per cent. of their wages. He should

report this to Bhakra Control Board for information only.

- (vii) **Financial commitments:** The General Manager is to be authorised to make financial commitments with the Army, Navy and other agencies, as necessary. He should report action to Bhakra Control Board.
- (viii) **Regulation of releases from Reservoir:** The General Manager must have full authority for regulating releases from the reservoir to suit the exigencies of construction programme, regardless of any other consideration.
- (ix) **General:** The General Manager should be authorised to exercise such additional powers as may be necessary to meet the emergencies, such as providing rent-free accommodation to Army and Navy personnel, sanction of telephone connections to personnel, of any rank, purchase of stationery etc. etc.
- (Sd.) S. D. Khungar—Member
- (Sd.) Kanwar Sain—Member.
- (Sd.) M. H. Slocum—Member.
- (Sd.) A. N. Khosla—Chairman.

Shri Amati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): We are not at all satisfied with the two or three statements which have been made by the hon. Minister here. The very next day we see in the newspapers some news which is completely contradictory to which has been stated here. Only the other day he told us that the water level in the hoist chamber was going down. But the very next day we found that the water level had come right up to the top. We have been reading Mr. Slocum's public statements

and also about his suggestion for having a full command over the matter. It is a very serious situation. We would like to know when you are going to give us an opportunity to discuss this matter and whether it will come up at the earliest possible time.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad)** There was a rumour in the press that due to this mishap at Bhakra we shall be incurring a loss of Rs 1 lakh per day in the Nangal Factory. May I know whether it is correct and also what is the situation there?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a different thing. There was a kind of fear about the delay that might be caused in the supply of energy to the fertiliser factory at Nangal.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur)** We would like to know the correct position about the terms of Mr. Slocum. Yesterday's papers and even today's papers have given the news that he is not going to touch it at all unless he is given full command. I want to know his definition of 'full command' and I want to know what his terms are.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh (Ferozepur)** Many statements have been made about the work in Bhakra dam. May I ask one question? May I know whether any progress has been made even after the enquiry has begun into the mishap to the hoist chamber, and whether the Government would take into consideration the consensus of opinion of the Members of this House that those who are members on the Board of Consultants should not be on the Enquiry Committee? A man cannot enquire into his own actions. Shri Khosla is the chairman of the Board of Consultants and he is enquiring into his own action.

**Shri Goray (Poona)** It was stated in the press, as being the Minister's own statement, that about Rs 50 lakhs will be required to put the damage right and that Mr. Slocum has said,

"I would like to hire that man who is ready to do that work for Rs. 50 lakhs." It was also stated that it may require nearly Rs 5 crores to Rs. 6 crores. May I know what is the position?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He has not said that "He would be a bold man who would make an assessment just at present" this is what he said.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if there is any agreed solution on the technical plane regarding the difficulties encountered? So far as the Bhakra-Nangal project is concerned, there are difficulties on the technical plane and also on the executive plane, that is, in respect of the Bhakra Control Board. May I know from the hon. Minister what is being done to arrive at a united solution of the technical as well as of the executive problems of the Bhakra-Nangal Project?

**Shri Mohammed Imam (Chitaldrug)** An expert committee has been appointed to go into the causes of this mishap or accident and to assess the entire loss that has been sustained by the Government. But the statement does not mention anything regarding the reason for this disaster.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Naturally there is so much anxiety about this matter which perhaps is justified. The whole country wants to know the position. Already, there has been a motion given notice of, and the Members are anxious that a discussion should take place here. The hon. Speaker has admitted that motion. Tomorrow, the Business Advisory Committee would be meeting, and they would consider whether the House can find time during this session to have a discussion on this subject. Hon. Members from every party are represented on that Committee. The Committee could have the views and the extent of the anxiety and the feeling of the hon. Members. This question would be taken up there and efforts would be made, I suppose, by

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the Business Advisory Committee to find time so that a discussion might be had here as early as possible.

**Shrimati Kena Chakravarty:** I may submit that the job of the Business Advisory Committee is only to allocate time. But this House is supreme for deciding which particular matter is of urgent importance for the country. Therefore, I would urge that this House may give its opinion that we must have a discussion of this subject, so that the Business Advisory Committee could allocate the time for it. It is only a question of allocation of time so far as the Business Advisory Committee is concerned.

**Mr Deputy-Speaker:** It is not customary or usual that the House gives its opinion first. Secondly, the hon lady Member is also one of the Members of the Business Advisory Committee. She attends it every time and she could show her reaction and her feelings there. I think the Members there also represent the whole House. We will consider there all that is said here and see what can be done.

If I were to allow all the questions and the answers that have been given here now, it would become a regular discussion here and before we take any decision perhaps we may have spent three or four hours today in just putting the questions and getting answers.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East):** Perhaps, if we meet on Saturday and if there is time, we might have this discussion then.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That aspect also will be taken into consideration by the Business Advisory Committee.

12.37 hrs.

#### COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

##### TENTH REPORT

**Shri Rane (Buldana):** I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Tenth Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table on the 4th September, 1959".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is—

"That this House agrees with the Tenth Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table on the 4th September, 1959".

*The motion was adopted.*

12.38 hrs

#### MOTION RE VIVIAN BOSE BOARD OF INQUIRY'S REPORT OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION INQUIRY

**Shri Harsh Chandra Mathur (Pali):** I beg to move:

"That this House takes note of the Vivian Bose Board of Inquiry's Report of the Life Insurance Corporation Inquiry, the advice of the Union Public Service Commission thereon and Government of India Resolution dated the 27th May, 1959".

Sir, this is an important matter arising out of a parliamentary question and criticism on the floor of the House and has resulted in public inquiries at the highest level. It has resulted in the resignation of one of our important and senior Cabinet ministers and it has resulted in disciplinary action against certain highest officials. It is to close this chapter that we have got to "take note" in retrospect. I think it is the duty of this House and that it is in the public interest to examine the facts and the findings as they have emerged as a result of these enquiries, more particularly, the inquiry by the Vivian Bose Board and the Union Public Service Commission's observations and recommendations thereon.

Sir, we must have a final and full look at the whole picture and draw