

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the Thirty-fifth Report of the Estimates Committee on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-fourth Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Defence—Military Dairy Farms.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS
OF THE HOUSE**

TWELFTH REPORT

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

I also lay on the Table a copy of the Statement showing names of Members who have been absent for 15 days or more continuously during the last Session.

12.04 hrs.

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

**REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF
IRRIGATION OF BIHAR re: GANDAK
PROJECT**

Shri Jhulan Sinha (Siwan): Sir, under Rule 197, 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 of the Irrigation Minister of Bihar reported in the Press on the 24th February, 1959, regarding Gandak Project."

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim): Sir, on the 17th December, 1958, the House was informed that the Bihar Government was revising the Gandak Project Report in the light of the comments offered by the Central Water and Power Commission and certain other relevant factors. Meanwhile, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had suggested that the Government of Bihar should meet the entire capital expenditure on the construction of the main Gandak canal and the distributaries lying in the territory of Uttar Pradesh, including compensation and the cost of rehabilitation and that they, on their part, would agree to take water on the same terms on which the Government of Bihar would supply water from this project to their own tenants. At my instance this question was discussed at a meeting held in Lucknow on the 21st February, 1959 at which the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Uttar Pradesh, the Minister of Irrigation, Bihar and myself were present. I am happy to inform the House that a settlement has been reached under which the Government of Uttar Pradesh have accepted the suggestion of the Planning Commission that betterment fees should be levied in the area served by the Gandak canal. The Uttar Pradesh Government have also agreed to construct the canal and the distributary system in Uttar Pradesh territory at their own cost. The cost of the project as a whole will be shared by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in proportion to the benefits received by each.

As a part of the Gandak Barrage site lies in Nepal, the concurrence of the Government of Nepal is necessary before a decision to embark on the construction of the project can be taken. We trust that the Nepal Government will be good enough to accord their concurrence in the near future.