

[Shri Thanulingam Nadar]

any major accidents in the railways or in dams. Yesterday and today we hear that a major dam has been destroyed and railway traffic is suspended.

Mr. Speaker: That does not mean that Members who are responsible to bring many serious matters to the notice of the House can escape from that responsibility. In this case, this happened yesterday. Let them wait and see whether the Minister makes a statement. What is the hurry about it?

SUGGESTION FOR DISCUSSION ON RAILWAYS' WORKING

Mr. Speaker: I would like to make one suggestion so far as railway operations are concerned. So far as food is concerned, almost every session we have a debate on the food situation. Likewise, instead of waiting once in twelve months to ventilate grievances concerning amenities to passengers, punctuality of trains and all that, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to consider whether every six months we cannot have a discussion for two or three hours for all hon. Members to refer to late coming of trains, amenities and all that happens on the railways. There is no harm in doing that. We are spending so much time with respect to other matters. Communication is so important that it can also be discussed every six months so that the House may get an opportunity of going over the entire field of railway operations instead of taking away time during Question Hour on a single question. The hon. Minister, with all his capacity and skill, may not be able to remember everything about everything that happens on the railway. This is a matter for the hon. Minister to consider. Or he may hold a conference of all the Members

in the Central Hall. I have no objection to that. Even informally the hon. Minister may call all Members for discussion.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareilly):
No, no.

Mr. Speaker: He may spend some time asking what exactly the difficulties are.

12.04 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

BURSTING OF KADDAM DAM

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion regarding breakdown of a dam.

"Failure of the Government to make adequate marginal lay-out to meet any exceptional eventuality while foundation for the Kaddam Dam was being grounded. It has resulted in the bursting of the almost completed dam causing a loss of nearly two crores of rupees and suspension of rail traffic. . . apart from causing loss of properties by flood on an extensive scale".

What is the latest information regarding this?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): So far as the Kaddam project is concerned, it is a State project and the execution of that project is with the Andhra Pradesh Government itself. The Central Government are not directly concerned with the execution of the project. But so far as the question concerns the tackling of flood problems, we have had some information about the rise in the Kaddam river and the actual water level in the Godavari and the Kaddam itself. We are issuing this information every day in a *Flood Newsletter* which is placed in

the Library of the House. The latest, that is, yesterday's *Flood Newsletter* issued by the Central Water and Power Commission gives information upto 31st August. The level on the 30th at 16 hours was 9.80 ft. above crest on 31-8-58, it was 12.20 ft. It also mentioned that the river Kaddam was in heavy floods and the flood waters were running above the crest of the dam on August 31. This *Newsletter* is placed in the Library. We publish it daily. The Ministry can even supply direct this *Newsletter* to those hon. Members who would be interested. But the information that we get on floods is placed in the Library of the House.

So far as this particular project is concerned, I shall get information in detail from the State Government.

Shri Goray (Poona): This question assumes certain importance because, though it is true, as the hon. Minister said, that this lies within the jurisdiction of the State Government, we are contributing funds from the Centre, and as such, when a dam of this size is wiped out, I think it should be the concern of the Centre also to consider this matter. Only a few days back, the hon. Minister gave us an assurance about the damage to Bhakra Nangal and we were told that the damage was not very serious. We were very glad to hear it. But I would like to point out that when there is such exceptional rainfall, care should be taken to see that our dams and other irrigation works must be so built that they withstand it. When this particular dam was damaged, it is not only the land or the bunds that were damaged but also the railway track, and traffic has been dislocated.

Therefore, I would suggest that before the monsoon season every year, the Centre must take care to send round inspection teams and they must see whether the dams are well built and whether they would withstand this pressure of rainfall.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Would it not be possible for the Ministry here to send their experts from the CWPC to the affected areas and get not only detailed reports in regard to the position there but also be able to offer their advice to the local governments concerned? I am glad that they have in their employment some of the world-famous experts on flood control. They should be able to give some help.

Mr. Speaker: They only want to know whether before sanctioning any loan for a project, the estimates and plans and other data are not collected and scrutinised by the Central Government and the Centre keeps a watch over the execution of the scheme from time to time even though the actual execution is in the hands of the State Government. If so, what has happened in this case, and why has it resulted in breakdown and waste of Rs. 2 crores?

Shri Hathi: So far as the plans and estimates are concerned, the procedure is that before any project is included in the Plan, the State Governments have to send their plans and estimates and detailed project reports. They are examined by the Central Water and Power Commission, the technical advisory committee of the Planning Commission also goes into the project reports. If a project is found feasible technically, economically and also from all other aspects, the Planning Commission sanctions that scheme. The loan assistance that is given to the State Governments is on an overall basis. It is not for each individual scheme. Taking into consideration the resources of the State and the total expenditure, an overall loan is made available to them; it is not that a particular amount is earmarked for a particular project except in the case of major projects like Damodar, Hirakud and so on. But I can assure the House that we will get information

[Shri Hathi]

from the State Government and give it to the House later

Shri Ranga: What about sending experts from here?

Shri Hathi: Yes, if they want

Mr. Speaker. The Centre cannot be responsible for all projects, however big they may be. The State Governments are there. The hon. Minister has stated that the execution portion of the project is undertaken purely by the State Government. They have got their own engineers. If any accident has happened, however regrettable it may be that it should have happened, the hon. Minister promised to get some more information and keep us informed about this matter, because our monies are also involved in that. Over and above that, I am not able to see what the Central Government can do. If, however, it transpires on investigation that on account of a faulty recommendation made by the Central Government it has happened, there is enough time for hon. Members to take it up and say that the local engineers only adopted and tried to execute the advice given by the Central Government. If the data given from here are false and therefore it happened, the authorities here are responsible. I am not suggesting any measures to be adopted. There may be cases, however, where this may be the case. Sometime ago there was a railway accident. Some engineers said that the bridge ought to be dug deep and so on. The Superintending Engineer, without going to the site, said 'No, no, it is not necessary. This resulted in all the trouble, the bridge in Hyderabad being overthrown. There are cases where the Centre may be responsible. But, so far as this matter is concerned, as at present advised, I do not agree that the Central Government is responsible for the unfortunate accident that has happened.

Shri Goray: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that he will give us some information. I want him to take some action on his part.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think I am called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED SUICIDE BY A FAMILY DUE TO UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion. I am not allowing it but anyhow I want to bring it to the notice of the House. It says

"In Bareilly, a district of UP a family of six persons have committed suicide by taking poisoned food on account of unemployment due to which a serious situation has arisen."

Unemployment is there all over India. How is the Central Government responsible for that? I do not think I am called upon to give consent to this motion. (*Interruptions*)

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The Chief Minister of UP has said that this is a political move. The entire population of UP are facing starvation and the Chief Minister, instead of taking preventive measures, has described the whole thing as a political move. The Food Minister of UP who was here, did not care to meet the Opposition Members and discuss all these matters with them. It is a very serious situation and that is why we approach the Central Government.

श्री यादव (बाराबंकी) श्रीमन हम सबध मे मझे निवदन करना है कि उस परिवार न कर्ट दिनों मे खाना नहीं खाया। उस परिवार के बड़े ब्रादमी ने जा कर एक लाटा चुराया।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, I am not going into this matter.