

riety question, as the Prime Minister rightly said, cannot be disposed of on an adjournment motion. There must be other methods of bringing the matter to the notice of the House and getting redress or offering a solution. Therefore, I am not giving my consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what minority question is involved in this matter? It is a question of national integrity and solidarity. What is the question of minority that is involved here? I am not able to understand. *(Interruption).*

Mr. Speaker: So there is no argument. One hon. Member has answered the question put by another hon. Member.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it a linguistic minority or a religious minority *(Interruption)*?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no discussion across the Table.

(ii) COLLAPSE OF THE EARTHEN DAM AT PANSHET

Shri B. K. Gaikwad (Nasik): There is another adjournment motion, Sir, standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Gaikwad has given notice of an adjournment motion about the reported statement on 24th July of the Minister of Maharashtra. Is that the adjournment motion?

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Yes.

Shri Assar (Ratnagiri): There is my adjournment motion also.

Mr. Speaker: It says:

"... that the advice of the Central Government engineers necessitated the completion of the earthen dam at Panshet near Poona one year prior of its completion schedule in 1962. The result being the dam collapsed causing immense loss to property and

human life involving use of Military personnel and immediate Central aid of some crores of rupees."

The hon. Minister has informed me that he is going to make a statement on the flood situation in general, including the flood situation in various other places also. This also was as a result of the floods.

Shri Assar: No, Sir. That was not flood.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): It is a break-down.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister will make a statement regarding this also.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): I will say, Sir, something about this question now itself. As far as the giving way of Panshet Dam is concerned, it has already been announced by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra that this question has been referred to a Commission and it will be enquired into by it. The result will be made out after the report is received from that Commission. Therefore, Sir, here I am not in a position to say anything as far as this question is concerned.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Why is he not able to say something?

Shri S. A. Dange (Bombay City Central): As far as the break-down of Panshet Dam is concerned, Sir, it is not a case of ordinary floods; the question relates to the very theory of earthen dams, the question of completing it and executing it properly. Therefore, it is not a question like the other floods. The question now is, whether the Maharashtra Government stated that they took the advice of the Central Government on this problem. We want to know whether that is a fact or not. The Commission will enquire into the theory, its execution, the failures and so on. It is also alleged that it was a sort of 'political flood' and not 'natural flood', because the

[Shri S. A. Dange]

dam had to be completed before the scheduled time for election. I am not going into that, but we would like to know whether the Central Government did advise the Maharashtra Government on this question.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: (Firozabad): May we know the terms of reference of the Commission?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All these matters, under whose advice it was done and all that, surely will come up before the very eminent High Court Judge of Bombay who is enquiring into it. It is not right or proper for us to hold a private enquiry as to what one of our engineers said there. It is not proper at this stage. I do not know at all—it may be true, it may not be true—the charge made, and if it was made, under what circumstances it was made and whether it was a *bona fide* error of judgment or whatever it may be. All these have to be enquired into. How can we possibly take up a small bit and enquire as to what our engineers said to other engineers?

Shri U. L. Patil (Dhulia): Will the Central Government engineers appear before the Commission?

Mr. Speaker: All these matters as to who is responsible, whether an engineer is responsible for wrong advice, if so what steps ought to be taken against him and so on cannot be disposed of in an adjournment motion.

Shri Goray (Poona): When this flood situation throughout the country is discussed, Sir, will you allow us to make a reference to the Panshet Dam because it is such a tragic event and it has caused so much destruction in Poona that we would like to take up this matter when the bigger question is discussed?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must have heard what was said from his own side, by the hon. Member Shri

Dange. He said that this has nothing to do with floods. Therefore, the dam collapsed even in spite of there being no floods. Even assuming that there were no floods the dam would have collapsed on account of the wrong advice that was given, according to him. That is what is alleged here. If it is relevant to the question, they make it irrelevant. I will allow all relevant matters to be discussed on the floor of the House. I am not going to prevent anybody from speaking on relevant points.

The hon. Minister wanted to make a general statement on the flood situation in the whole country. I have also received a Calling Attention Notice on this question. There is no harm if I allow the Calling Attention Notice to be read and then call upon the hon. Minister to make his statement.

12.29 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): There are other adjournment motions. * * *

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon-Member is not going to anticipate the decision of this House.

Shri Braj Singh: * * *

Mr. Speaker: I have disallowed his motion. Therefore, let us not go into that matter here.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: * * *

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This won't be taken up. When any hon. Member persists in giving information to the House—not seeking information—indirectly and casting aspersion on the other side when the other side, the motion having been turned down as being irrelevant, is not called upon to answer, all that he says will not form part of the records. If in spite of my asking him to desist from further speaking on the matter hon. Member goes on speaking something, that would not form part of the records

***Expunged, as ordered by the Chair.