

**Water for Hooghly River on completion of Feeder Canal taking off from Farakka Barrage**

\*1543. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the amount of water (in cusecs) the Hooghly River will be getting daily after the completion of the Feeder Canal taking off from the Farakka Barrage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KURIEL) : The Hooghly river will be getting up to 40,000 cusecs of water through the Feeder Canal taking off from the Farakka Barrage.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Is it the amount which was estimated at the time of constructing the project or is it less than that or more ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : The project is being constructed according to the sanction. This is the amount that has been provided for in the estimate. That is what we are doing now.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Is there any diversion of water from the Ganges because it is here that the requirement of water will not be flowing through the channel. That is the idea.

DR. K. L. RAO : At the time of sanction of the project, there is a certain flow that we are allowing from month to month. The same pattern will be followed after the project is completed.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA . Will this amount be sufficient to clear up the silting to the Hooghly river ? Is it the maximum ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The discharge will be 40,000 of cusecs water. The canal is being constructed accordingly. It is not a question of maximum or minimum or anything of that type.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER : May I know whether the reservoir in the upstream that will be created after the Farakka Barrage is complete will be able to store so much of water that a regular and uniform flow of

water will be there along with the feeder canal to revitalise the Hooghly river and keep it navigable throughout the year and also whether such a reservoir of water at a high level will flood and inundate the western part of the district of Malda almost for the whole of the year unless a bund is constructed there immediately to check that ?

DR. K. L. RAO : There is not really much storage. It is only a part of the amount of water that will be flowing in the canal and the rest will flow in the river. In regard to the other question about Malda, a bund has been sanctioned. But during one of my inspections I found that it will submerge a lot of land in the Malda district. I suggested that we should put another bank parallel to the river to save as much land as possible. That will be done.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER : I wanted to know whether there will be a regular flow of water through the feeder canal.

DR. K. L. RAO : There is a certain flow. That pattern will be followed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Hon. Minister said that this whole scheme was sanctioned for providing 40,000 cusecs of water. I would like to know from him what has happened to the reports which we heard in between and they were discussed in this House too - that some project is being taken up by the Bihar Government for diverting some of the water further upstream which might affect the flow from the feeder canal on which the future of Calcutta port and the navigability of the river depends. Is that scheme going through or not ?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is a very large area and various factors are taken into account. We have sanctioned Farakka on the basis of certain pattern of flow, certain amount of water flowing in certain months of the year. There is no question of saying that because Farakka Barrage is constructed we should not take up a project higher up. That is never intended.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I wanted to know whether any other project was taken up.

DR. K. L. RAO : Ganga being a vast area, number of projects will be taken up from

time to time, to serve irrigation and other purposes there, and we have visualise all these projects and we have followed a certain pattern of flow in canal. We looked into all these aspects at the time of sanction and decision taken are being followed. That is not affected by other projects.

**Meeting of the Delegation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with Prime Minister**

\*1545. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :  
SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures to step up industrial production were discussed between the Delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Prime Minister on the 5th July, 1971 in New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). A delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry called on the Prime Minister on July 5, 1971. There was an informal exchange of views and the delegation made representations on certain issues of common interest to the industry, such as the impact of the withdrawal of the development rebate, the need for speeding up of licensing procedures and relieving stringency of credit. Government is, however, fully aware of these problems and is constantly taking steps to ensure rapid industrial development and overall growth of economy.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : The Minister said that Government is constantly taking steps to ensure rapid industrial development and overall growth of economy. This is very good. I would like to know whether Government has taken specific steps for the rapid industrial development and overall growth of the economy and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : While replying to the debate on my Demands in the House I had elaborated all

the steps in this connection and what were the new steps taken in this regard.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Has Government taken up steps so far to speed up licensing procedures. If so, I want to know details thereof.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : We have speeded up things, and the performance so far is more than the whole of last year.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURY : The Minister has been very general in his answers. We have carefully followed his reply to Industrial Development Ministry's Demands. With regard to the three issues which the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry discussed with the Prime Minister, I want to know whether any specific decision has been taken.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It was a general discussion and no specific point was raised. They generally mentioned about the development rebate which was the burning issue then, about which there has been lot of discussion in the House. The Finance Minister had already replied. About speeding up of the licensing procedure, the House had been told as to what had been done and they have been already announced in the House. I understand from the none in my pad that they also discussed with the Prime Minister about the Bangla Desh issue, and the various impacts that it is likely to have, and the Prime Minister explained to them the position.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : May I know whether in the course of discussions it was made abundantly clear by the Prime Minister to this delegation from the Chamber of Commerce that they should not close down industrial units in the larger interests of the country, and if so, the reaction of those industrialists ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not know what exchange of views really took place between them and the Prime Minister, except the note that the Prime Minister's secretariat has passed on to me, and there is no such reference about such a talk.