

[Dr. K.L. Rao]

STATEMENT

On 12th May, 1969, I made a statement on the Narmada Water Dispute in which I announced the decision of the Government of India to set up a tribunal to adjudicate on the dispute under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. In that statement, I mentioned *inter-alia* that "the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has no objection to this."

On the matter being brought to notice by Hon. Member Shri Bharat Singh Chowhan, I rechecked the position. I have to admit with great regret that an error crept into my earlier statement as a result of misunderstanding as regard the stand of the State Government. The statement which I made was based upon information which my Ministry had received from the Prime Minister's Secretariat where the misunderstanding had arisen. I sincerely regret this error. I need hardly assure the House that there was no intention of misleading the House or deliberately giving any incorrect information.

I might add that under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, a tribunal has to be constituted even if a single State makes a request for this and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations. In this particular case, as I mentioned in my earlier statement, the Government of India had made many serious attempts over a number of years to settle the Narmada Dispute but as these had not yielded any useful results, the Central Government were of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by any further negotiations in the matter and that the appropriate course would be to refer the dispute to a tribunal. As the House will thus observe, the error committed as regards the stand of the Maharashtra Government has not in any way affected the decision of the Central Government.

12.40 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-THIRD TO FIFTIETH SITTINGS

SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR

(Dohad) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Minutes of the Forty-third to Fiftieth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table copy, duly authenticated by the Secretary of Raja Sabha, of the Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1969, passed by the House of Parliament during the current session and assented to.

Sir, I also lay on the Table following two Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to.

- (1) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1969.
- (2) The Finance Bill, 1969.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
NINETIETH REPORT

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO (Kakinada) : Sir, I beg to present the Ninetieth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation-Department of Tourism (*Interruptions*),

PETITION RE. BAN ON PRODUCTION
OF COLOURED SAREES AT
MALEGAON AND DHULIA

SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL (Barrackpore) : Sir, I beg to present a petition from Shri Shabbir Hakeem and 30,000 others of Malegaon, District, Nasik, regarding notification issued by the Textile Commissioner banning production of coloured sarees on power looms with effect from 2nd June rendering over one lakh weavers and workers of Malegaon and Dhulia unemployed (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapore) : Sir, you have allowed all other irrelevant matter to be discussed here although there was no question. Why not permit him also to have a few minutes.