

[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.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will permit him but not now. The next item is "Statement by Ministers". They may lay them on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already said that the statement will be circulated to hon. Members.

12.43 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SQ  
NO. 1203 RE PRODUCTION OF  
NON-FERROUS METALS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : Sir, I lay on the Table a statement correcting the answer given on the 21st April, 1969 to supplementaries by Sarvashri Pattiam Gopalani and S. Damani on Starred Question No. 1203 regarding production of non-ferrous metals.

12.43½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT, REACTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER AMENITIES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement\* regarding Government's reaction to some of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Salary, Allowances and other amenities to Members of Parliament.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, the statement may be read out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Even if they are read out there is no time for putting questions (*interruptions*). Copies of all statements will be circulated now.

SHRI S. M BANERJEE (Kāṅpur) : Sir, I raise to a point of order. My point of order is with regard to item 22 on the Order Paper.

12.45 hrs.

PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Petroleum (Amendment) Bill. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons which has been attached with this Bill one reason that has been given is that they want to change the nomenclature and no reason has been stated regarding the enhancement of penalty. You will see that by clause 14 the penalties are being enhanced from a fine of Rs. 500 to one month's imprisonment and Rs 1000 fine. This is being done in every minor cases. Even for the breaches of ordinary rules, even for persons who are temporarily in charge of either a place where petroleum is stored or even when someone is transporting it. You will be pleased to see that in the original Act Chapter I deals with this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this stage you are allowed to make a brief statement and not allowed to go into the merits of the Bill.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I am not going into the details. On the contravention of a very minor rule, a person in charge of a place of storage of petroleum, a person transporting petroleum or a person dealing with petroleum if he refuses or neglects to show to any officer any receipt-acle or plant or even if he fails to render reasonable assistance to any officer during inspection he will be liable to be punished with imprisonment as well as a fine of Rs. 1000.

My submission in this behalf is that there must be some rationality behind puni-

\*Please cols.....

\*\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16-5-69.