

श्री बृजमूषण लाल :

श्री सूरज भान :

क्या शिक्षा तथा युवक सेवा मंत्री 12 फरवरी, 1969 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 598 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली के अध्यापकों को पृथक आवास की तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना के अन्तर्गत चिकित्सा की सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाएंगी।

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्योरा क्या है, तथा इस दिशा में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है और इसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो विलम्ब के कारण हैं ?

शिक्षा तथा युवक सेवा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भक्त दर्शन) : (क) से (ग). दिल्ली के राजकीय स्कूलों के अध्यापकों को पृथक आवास की व्यवस्था करने का प्रश्न दिल्ली प्रशासन के विचाराधीन है। प्रशासन अपने अध्यापकों की केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य योजना के अधीन चिकित्सा सम्बन्धी सुविधाएं देने के प्रश्न पर भी स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन कार्यलय के परामर्श से विचार कर रहा है।

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
U. S. Q. NO. 3084 RE. VISITS
ABROAD BY MINISTERS AND
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : I regret to say that in the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3084 in the Lok Sabha on 14th March, 1969, the information furnished in regard to the foreign exchange spent on the Ministers foreign tours needs revision due to fresh information having been received from some of the Ministries. The total amount of foreign

exchange should read as Rs. 2,12,918.95P. instead of Rs. 2,06,471.07P.

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
U. S. Q. No. 6128 RE. ALL INDIA
AND CENTRAL SERVICES**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : In the statement referred to in the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6128 on the 11th April 1969, information was given regarding Military Engineering Service which has since been corrected. Accordingly, a revised statement showing the information in respect of the Military Engineering Service is laid on the House. [Placed in Library. See No. Table of LT—1374/69].

12. hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Havoc caused by floods in Brahmaputra

श्री वेणी शंकर शर्मा (बांका) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूं और प्रार्थना करता हूं कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें—

“ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी में बाढ़ के कारण आसाम में इसके समस्त मार्ग के साथ-साथ हुई तबाही, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जोरहाट तथा गोहाटी के बीच रेल और संचार व्यवस्था अस्त-व्यस्त हो गई है।”

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K.L. RAO) : Shall I read it or lay it on the Table ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it a long one ?

DR. K.L. RAO : Three pages.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Bairampur) : How can he lay it on the Table when it has not been circulated ?

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : Sir, you may direct the Minister to

circulate such statements in advance so that they can be laid on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When the statements are long it is always better to circulate them.

DR. K. L. RAO : I will circulate them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In the present case, let him read it.

Statement by the Union Minister of Irrigation & Power in the Lok Sabha on July 25, 1969. In Reply to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Beni Shanker Sharma and others regarding the Havoc caused by floods in the River Brahmaputra all along its course through Assam disrupting Rail and Road communications between Jorhat and Gauhati.

DR. K. L. RAO : Since start of the monsoon this year, severe flood have occurred in the State of Assam. Upto now there were three waves of floods; the first wave was from 22-6-1969 to 27-6-1969 and this affected areas in Dhemaji of the Lakhimpur District, in Nalbari of the Kamrup District, and Goalpara District. Road and rail communication in Kamrup area were cut off due to breaches in embankments of the Pagladia. The second wave of flood was from 7-7-69 to 11-7-1969. This inundated areas of the Upper Assam, especially in the Dhemaji on the north bank and in the Dibrugarh Sub-Division on the south bank. The flooding was severe in the Sibsagar area. The Brahmaputra Valley experienced the third and the most severe flood wave from 16-7-1969. The rail communications between Jorhat and Gauhati were however not disrupted during these floods.

According to the latest information, the floods are now receding all along although at some places the water levels are still above the warning stages.

The special features of floods of 1969 are :—

- (i) The Pagladiya river experienced the heaviest flood exceeding the previous levels and recorded RL 180 at N. T. road crossing at 4 P. M. on 24-6-1969 against the previous maximum of 179.19 in 1967.
- (ii) River Buridehing was very high in the upper reaches and recorded R. L. 337.85 on 10-7-69 at Kho-

wang, River Desang exceeded the previous records, overtopping dykes almost on both the banks.

- (iii) Brahmaputra has exceeded the previous records at Dibrugarh, recording R. L. 346.20 on 17-7-69 at 10 P. M. the previous maximum recorded being 345.40 in 1962 and 1968.
- (iv) Severe erosion occurred in Dhubri necessitating shifting of godowns etc.

Breaches and Damages

Upto now, 23 breaches and one cut have occurred in embankments along the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. The breakup of these river-wise is as follows :

Brahmaputra	5 Nos. and one cut
Jaidhal	3 Nos.
Subansiri	1 No.
Maridhal	1 No.
Buridehing	3 Nos.
Desang	5 Nos.
Jhanji	1 No.
Malow	1 No.
Tuni	1 No.
Pagladiya	2 Nos.
Total	23 Nos.

The information regarding the damage is available only upto the period ending 30-6-69 as given below :

- (i) Area affected 6.5 lakh acres
- (ii) Population affected 2.5 lakh
- (iii) Cropped area damaged 3.7 lakh acres
- (iv) Value of crops damaged Rs. 42.4 lakhs
- (v) No. of houses damaged 2832
- (vi) Value of houses damaged Rs. 3.6 lakhs
- (vii) No. of cattle lost 14
- (viii) No. of human lives lost 1
- (ix) Damage to public utilities Not estimated

Total Damage : Rs. 46 lakhs
(excluding loss due to erosion at Dhubri)

The State Government is yet to make a final assessment of losses due to floods this year.

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

Relief measures

The State Government has taken steps for flood relief works. Gratuitous relief to the affected families has also been given. Army help was sought for organising emergent rescue and relief operations

The State Government has not yet approached the Central Government for financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation.

श्री वेणी शंकर शर्मा : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है वह जितना निराशापूर्ण है उतना ही दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण। आज 21 वर्षों की आजादी के बाद भी हम असम में ही नहीं भारतवर्ष के अन्य प्रान्तों में भी बाढ़ की वही दशा देख रहे हैं जो आज से 21 वर्ष पहले थी। बाढ़ और सूखा एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान उनके एक अपने वक्तव्य की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जिस में उन्होंने कहा था कि यदि भारतवर्ष की बड़ी-बड़ी नदियों को नहरों के द्वारा मिला दिया जाये तो सूखे की समस्या का भी समाधान हो जायेगा और साथ-साथ बाढ़ इत्यादि की जो विभीषिका प्राये दिन होती है उसका भी अन्त हो जायेगा।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी इस स्कीम के बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कभी विचार किया है या नहीं? अगर किया है तो उसका परिणाम क्या हुआ है?

दूसरी बात यह कि असम में बाढ़ की विभीषिका को रोकने के लिए एक ब्रह्मपुत्र वैली कमिशन की नियुक्ति की गई थी। उस का क्या क्या प्रयास हुआ है, उसकी कोई रिपोर्ट निकली है या नहीं, और उसके मुताबिक कोई काम हुआ है या नहीं?

तीसरी बात यह कि वर्ल्ड बैंक से भी इस के सम्बन्ध में सहायता देने के लिए कहा गया था। तो वर्ल्ड बैंक से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई सहायता प्राप्त हुई या नहीं?

इन प्रश्नों के साथ साथ मैं केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि भारतवर्ष में बाढ़ कोई नई परिस्थिति नहीं है। बिहार में कोसी नदी में भी बाढ़ आया करती थी, वेस्ट बंगाल में दामोदर में भी इसकी बड़ी विभीषिका होती थी। किन्तु वहां डैम्स के बनने के कारण कोसी और दामोदर नदियों का जो ताण्डव नृत्य हुआ करता था वह प्रायः बन्द हो गया है। क्या इसी प्रकार असम में भी ब्रह्मपुत्र और दूसरी बड़ी बड़ी नदियों में डैम आदि बना कर और उससे बाढ़ का पानी रोक कर उसको सिंचाई के काम में लाने के साथ साथ बाढ़ के जो दुष्परिणाम होते हैं उन को रोकने के लिए सरकार कोई चेष्टा करेगी?

अन्तिम बात जिस की ओर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि असम एक बहुत ही छोटा प्रदेश है उस की आर्थिक शक्ति इतनी नहीं है कि वह इन समूची स्कीमों को पूरा कर सके। इसके लिये केन्द्रीय सहायता की बहुत आवश्यकता है और केन्द्रीय सरकार को इसकी समूची जिम्मेदारी लेनी चाहिये। इसके सम्बन्ध में क्या मंत्री महोदय ने कोई विचार किया है?

DR. K. L. RAO : I may submit at the outset that in the case of Brahmaputra which is the biggest river of India and one of the biggest rivers in the world, it is not possible to avoid any flood altogether. Actually, this year, the flood damage has not been very heavy so far. As I submitted the damage has been about Rs 50 lakhs whereas, generally, the damage is about seven crores of rupees. what I submit is that in the case of the river like Brahmaputra it is not possible to avoid floods as long as there are very heavy rains in that area.

In regard to the question of flood Control, there are a number of methods to control and the construction of dams is one of them. But in the Brahmaputra valley, the area is such that it is not possible to construct dams. We are trying to, not in the main river.....

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : Last year, you spoke of retention dams. You have not constructed them. You are neglecting Assam like anything.

DR. K. L. RAO : It is a question of constructing retention dams on the tributaries and that is one of the things which have got to be yet investigated.

The other question was about the Brahmaputra River Commission. We have been trying our best to establish a River Commission because the control of Brahmaputra river is difficult and one single State like Assam cannot deal with it. That is very definite. It is a very big river and the resources of one State, either technical or financial will not be sufficient. Actually this was the opinion of the Minister's of Food, Irrigation and Power in the Conference held at Nainital. They all recommended that when Assam cannot cope up with a big river like this, the money must come from the Centre. This is under discussion with the State and the Centre. I will not be able to say anything now about the financial arrangement.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : The power of Brahmaputra river to create havoc is known to everybody. It need not be stressed here further. The hon. Minister has said that in the recent floods only one human life has been lost. The *Hindustan Standard* of 24th has said that 13 families perished and washed away in Desang District, numbering about 70 persons. The Minister has said only one person has lost his life but 70 persons have already been washed away completely in the turbulent waters. What you have said is not correct. There have been grave floods times without number from 1954 onwards and during the 14 years, the total loss suffered was Rs. 108 crores. The hon. Minister says that Brahmaputra is a problem. Man had landed in the Moon and has come back safely. That is not a problem, but Brahmaputra is a problem : You are also a scientist and an engineer; everybody knows that.

I am not going into the details. Recently in Naini Tal, in the meeting of the Irrigation Ministers of States which was presided over by D. K. L. Rao, a decision was taken that the Brahmaputra should be controlled and tackled at a national level.

Also in the recently held meeting of the MPs Consultative Committee, it was decided that the Brahmaputra should be controlled at the national level. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has accepted this suggestion and decision of the state ministers' Conference and of the MPs Consultative Committee and what action has been taken thereon.

Secondly, in view of the immeasurable losses caused by these floods and knowing fully well the backwardness of Assam and its poor revenue, may I know whether Government will come out with a help of at least Rs. 10 crores to meet the immediate and long-term needs of the State of Assam?

DR. K. L. RAO : Regarding the first question, I submit that the information that we have from the state Governments is upto the end of June. We do not have the latest information. According to the information furnished by the Assam Government, the number of life lost was one upto the end of June. We do not have the latest figure.

With regard to the question of funds, I agree that we have to spend more money on Brahmaputra, but the question is how to find the finance. Since 1964 we have spent Rs. 27 crores in Assam. This is quite inadequate. I can understand that. I am very glad that the hon. Member has referred to the State Ministers' Conference at Naini Tal and also to the meeting of the Consultative Committee. Both of them felt that this problem should be tackled at the national level and the finance for that should be found. I am drawing the attention of the Finance Ministry to this statement and I hope that something will be done.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : What about my second question, whether Rs. 10 crores would be given as immediate relief?

DR. K. L. RAO : About relief, I would submit that the State Government has not yet sent the figures; they have not yet applied for it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : His question is whether you are prepared to make a provision of Rs. 10 crores for immediate relief.

DR. K. L. RAO : They have not asked for it.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : I am asking in this House on behalf of the people of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. R. Barua.

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat) : I must compliment the Irrigation Ministers of different States of India who opined that a Brahmaputra Valley Commission should be set up at the national level. But I am amazed to find our Central Minister saying that the floods this year were not very serious. And he has supplied to the House the figure which subsisted upto sometime in June. He has not said anything as to what happened in between from June to date.

This is a very unfortunate state of affairs. The hon. Minister himself happens to be an expert and he knows what the flood conditions there are. Recently, we represented the question of the Brahmaputra to the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission should sit together and decide here and now what should be done. But so far, nothing has been done and the flood havoc is still there. May we get a categorical assurance from Government that Government are going to do something with regard to the Brahmaputra valley Commission in view of unanimous opinion all over ? I may say for the information of the House that the Irrigation Ministers of the different States are prepared to forgo their own share of projects, if the Brahmaputra Valley Commission is taken up at a national level and as a national scheme. The hon. Minister has not said anything about it. I would like to get a categorical reply from him to the question whether this Brahmaputra Valley scheme will be taken up at a national level by Government and the finances will be provided by Government.

DR. K. L. RAO : I am sorry the hon. Member did not understand me correctly when I said that the havoc was not serious this year. I only meant that it was not so serious considering the nature of havoc that is taking place there year by year.

SHRI R. BARUA : The entire town of Dhubri is completely devastated.

DR. K.L. RAO : What I submitted was that on an average about Rs. 7 crores was lost every year on account of the Brahmaputra floods. It is a very serious matter. I am only drawing the attention of the House to the fact that the Brahmaputra is a very big river, and it is the biggest in India and it causes serious flood havoc every year.

SHRI R. BARUA : The entire area is completely devastated.

DR. K.L. RAO : As regards the other point namely that the project should get finances from the Centre, I submitted earlier that the matter was under discussion, and I hope that something will be done in regard to that I cannot say more than that, because I am not the Finance Minister.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA (Godda) : Every year Assam is being visited by floods and lakhs and lakh rupees worth of loss is being caused every year. As stated by the hon. Minister, more than Rs. 7 crores is lost. This year, the river Brahmaputra is eroding a number of towns, and one of the important towns, namely Dhubri is being eroded and is likely to be washed away unless prompt steps are taken by way of embankments of other protective measures. Will the hon. Minister state if any steps have been taken in that direction, and whether the Government of Assam have asked for help because it is beyond their capacity to carry out the work on embankments without the help of the Central Government ?

DR. K.L. RAO : It is true that the erosion of Dhubri is very serious. In fact, it has been observed for the last several years that this problem is becoming more and more serious. A number of attempts have been made by way of general methods, such as bandalling, bottom padelling and floating cages and so on, but none of these methods has succeeded. Then only alternative will be to have some solid stone spurs as has been done at Dibrugarh. We are awaiting suggestions from the State Government, and I am sure that something has got to be done at Dhubri where the problem of erosion is becoming very serious.