

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : All these matters have to be seen in a much larger perspective. I know there is a group in this House who would like to . . .

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : No group, it is the whole country.

SHRI RANGA : Let us all be united now at least.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is a national question.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Even you are probably with us.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : This is why I did not get up earlier.

SHRI RANGA : Talk about the whole lot of us.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : We do take a grave view of this. Even though some mistake might have been made by the constable in entering the Embassy compound the Chinese should not have behaved in such a high-handed manner. This is accepted. Nobody need argue about it. But I think the House might leave Government to deal with the matter, as the Minister has said, according to the law. It is not good to take a snap decision in any of these matters.

As far as Shri M. L. Sondhi is concerned, I doubt if the Chinese would make such a grave mistake as to kidnap him. But should this happen, I must say it will be a great loss to the House and to India; and it will be China's gain.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Prime Minister has not answered the specific question about withdrawal of diplomatic immunity from the Chinese officials.

MR. SPEAKER : DR. K. L. Rao.

18-38 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE. LANDSLIDE AND OBSTRUCTION IN THE RIVER BURI GANDAK IN NEPAL

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : A news item appeared this morning about the reported land slide and obstruction caused in the river Buri Gandak and the threat to life

and property in North Bihar. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar as also the Minister for Irrigation and Power were contacted and according to the information available with the State Government, the situation is as follows :

The land slide has taken place *not* on the Buri Gandak river but on Buri Gandaki, a tributary of the Narayani, i.e., Gandak river at a place called Labubese 12 miles upstream of Aru Ghat Baza and about 50 miles north-west of Kathmandu in Nepal. The land slide is reported to have caused an obstruction of a height of about 50 feet across this river. It is understood that the water is now overflowing.

The Gandak Barrage now under construction at Bhaisalotan (Valmikinagar), is 110 miles from Aru Ghat Bazar, and a breach of the land slide and the resultant rush of water is likely to be largely absorbed as valley storage between Aru Ghat Bazar and Valmikinagar. While heavy floods are unlikely, the situation has to be carefully watched and precautions taken. Government of Bihar feel that there is no cause of alarm. They have alerted all the concerned officers. As the floods in Gandak may also affect areas in U.P., the U.P. Government has been advised in the matter.

Steps are being taken to safeguard the coffer dam and other appurtenant works on the Gandak Barrage under construction at Valmikinagar.

Officers of the Bihar Government consisting of the Secretary, Irrigation Department, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and the Chief Engineer, Gandak Project left Patna this morning for an aerial inspection of the spot by an aeroplane of the State Government. They were, however, unable to fly over the area and returned back to Patna.

One of the senior officers of the Central Water and Power Commission is at present at Patna and is keeping in close touch with the State Government. The Chief Engineer of the State Government is flying tomorrow to Khatamandu and join the Nepal Engineers for further investigations. I have offered to the Minister for Irrigation and Power, Bihar to visit the areas, if necessary.