

(4) Shri Gangacharan Dixit ; (5) Shrimati Ganga Devi ; (6) Shri Tukaram Hurji Gavit ; (7) Shri Y. Gadilingana Goud ; (8) Shri Samar Guha ; (9) Kumari Kamla Kumari ; (10) Shri G. Y. Krishnan ; (11) Hazi Lutfal Haque, (12) Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal ; (13) Shri Dhuleshwar Meena ; (14) Shri Mohan Swarup ; (15) Shri B. S. Murthy ; (16) Shri Kedar Paswan, (17) Shri Ram Charan ; (18) Shrimati Tara Sapre ; (19) Shri Ramavatar Shastri ; (20) Shri T. M. Sheth, (21) Shri Satya Narain Singh ; (22) Shri P. Sivasankaran ; (23) Shri Ramachandra Ulaka ; and (24) Shri Tenneti Viswanatham."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the prevention of water pollution and the maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the purposes aforesaid, of Prevention of Water Pollution Boards, for conferring on such Boards functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith, made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th August, 1970 and communicated to this House on the 19th August, 1970 and do resolve that the following twenty-four members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely :—

(1) Shri Maganti Ankineedu ; (2) Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal ; (3) Shri N.T. Das ; (4) Shri Gangacharan Dixit ; (5) Shrimati Ganga Devi ; (6) Shri Tukaram Hurji Gavit ; (7) Shri Y. Gadilingana Goud ; (8) Shri Samar Guha ; (9) Kumari Kamla Kumari ; (10) Shri G.Y. Krishnan ; (11) Hazi Lutfal Haque ; (12) Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal ; (13) Shri Dhuleshwar Meena ; (14) Shri Mohan Swarup ; (15) Shri B. S. Murthy ; (16) Shri Kedar Paswan ; (17) Shri Ram Charan ; (18) Shrimati Tara Sapre ; (19) Shri Ramavatar Shastri ; (20) Shri T.M. Sheth ; (21) Shri Satya Narain Singh ; (22) Shri P. Sivasankaran ; (23) Shri Ramachandra Ulaka ; and (24) Shri Tenneti Viswanatham."

The motion was adopted.

18.18 hrs.

STATEMENT ON THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : As promised in the morning, I laying the second supplementary statement on the Flood situation in the country on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-4163/70]

18.19 hrs.

DISCUSSION *Re.* SHORTAGE OF FISH SUPPLY IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu's motion on the shortage of fish. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, there is an acute fish famine in West Bengal and Assam. In Assam, fish is being sold between Rupees 16 and 25 a kilo and in West Bengal it is between Rs. 10 and 14.

It is primarily due to partition of the country which was a national responsibility, and I shall tell you in a minute how the Central Government have miserably failed, deliberately and due to inefficiency also. It is more felt in those areas because people there are dependent on fish diet very much for finding their minimum protein requirements for living. There is no other form of protein that is available. A very eminent scientist has very recently said that the development of the brain does not take place unless there is adequate protein-intake in a certain age group.

The world consumption of fish has increased, but in fish-eating areas of West Bengal and Assam, due to non-availability and high price, it has decreased, causing demoralisation and malnutrition amongst the people. Lack of protein will make this race morbid and of sub-human standard. I warn the Government to take note of this, but I do not really hope that this Government is capable of taking note of the seriousness of the whole thing.

[Shri Jyotirmoy Basu]

The fish scarcity that we see today in that part of the country was greatly possible due to Congress association with vested interests, and politicking with West Bengal on food and many other items.

In the matter of consumption of fish, according to world standards, we stay at the last place. I shall give you three figures from Asian countries where the standard of living is not surely the highest. In Korea, the per-head consumption per year is 37 k.g.; in China, it is 31 k.g., and in India it is 2.7 k.g. Coming to the world catch, for Peru it had been 1,05,20,300 tonnes; for Japan it has been 86,69,800 tonnes; for the USSR it was 60,82,100 tonnes, and for India, the size and population of which is much more than that of most of the countries that I have mentioned, it had been only 14 lakhs tonnes. It is an utter failure on the part of the Central Government and utter failure on the part of the people who are responsible for implementation of the growth of pisciculture etc.

West Bengal has 85 k.m. sea-front, and the whole thing is untapped. It has a plateau of 38,856 sq. m., and nothing has been done about it. In the 40th report of the Estimates Committee, 1967-68, it has been said :

"The Committee are unhappy to note the way in which the development of fisheries in the Bay of Bengal has been handled. It appears that initially, no proper survey was made about the fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and the deep-sea fishing operation undertaken by West Bengal....."

—under Central command; that is my addition—

".....on a commercial scale was unproductive". Calcutta has 55,50,145 population on a particular day and requires about 80,900 metric tonnes of fish, which is about 6350 maunds a day. But now they are getting not more than 40 per cent of the total requirements. West Bengal needs

about 139 lakhs maunds of fish. The annual production is only about 70 lakhs maunds, and 20 maunds have to be imported; as a result inter-State racket is going on for plundering the people there. It could be remedied only through different methods.....

SHRI RAGHURAMIAH : The hon. Member can lay his speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : He is a great man for politicking and stunt-giving. We know him. He cannot touch anything for the good of the people. So, let him kindly bear with me a little bit. We have borne enough nonsense on the part of Government. Now, let him bear with me a little.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Is he asking the speech to be laid on the Table or the fish to be laid on the Table of the House ?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Production should have been increased this way; sweet water, inland fisheries etc., deep sea fishing and coastal fishing, estuarine fishing in the Sunderbans, brackish water fishing; and the supply could also be augmented by imports from other States through private sources, the Central Fisheries Corporation and the catches of Government of India trawlers etc. and also sweet water fisheries, inland fisheries and fishing in tanks and reservoirs. Very little has been done in this regard.

A tank development programme was created but it only created corruption and any political ends were served by it. Nothing original was done, and nothing organised was done in riverine fisheries. Government have not taken up this problem with any seriousness.

We require dredgers for cleaning the big tanks and big rivers where desiltation is necessary and also for removal of the internal shrubs. The deep sea fishing and coastal fishing originally in 1963.....

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) : The bell is being rung again...

सभापति महोदय, इतना महत्त्वपूर्ण भाषण बल रहा है, लेकिन सदन में गण-पूर्ति नहीं है।

The bell has been rung a second time and even then the quorum is not there. The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may kindly wait for a minute. There is no quorum. The bell is being rung.....

18.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.