(d) if replies to parts (a) to (c) above be in affirmative whether it does not tantamount to discrimination in as much as no weightage has been given to an individual having put in four years of service and more ; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) to (e). There has been no revision of the scale and as such the question of giving any weightage of service in fixation of pay of serving stenographers does not arise. No discrimination is involved as serving Stenographer's pay has been stopped up to the level of the pay of new recruits possessing similar qualifications regarding speed.

Steel Plant in Goa

3948. SHRI SHINKRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have come across severe criticism by the Press in Goa regarding the allotment of the Steel Plants to Hospet, Salem and Vishakhapatnam with utter disregard to the wishes and claims from the Goan people;

(b) whether Government are aware of the feelings of the Goan people and Goa Government who see in the allotment of the above mentioned Steel Plants political motivations and pressurisation and not rational consideration of merits on the part of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable steps to minimise the frustration amongst the people and the local Government and allot to them the fourth Steel Plant in the Public Sector in the near future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY EN-GINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the claim of Goa for the setting up of a steel plant in that region.

(c) Attention is invited to the statement made by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha on the 17th April, 1970. As she stated, there are a number of suitable sites in the country, and with the increasing demand for steel with the growth of the economy, all these sites will be considered as new steel plants have to be put up.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SILTING UP OF UPPER GANGES CANAL

श्री यशपाल सिंह (देहरादून) : अघ्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मन्त्री का घ्यान दिलाता हूं और निवेदन करता हूं कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें:

"हरिद्वार में अपर गंगा कैनाल में रेत जमा होने के कारण फसलों को नुकसान पहुंचने तथा बिजली घरों के बन्द हो जाने के समाचार।"

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MI-NISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): On the 20th July, there were heavy rains in the catchment area of the Ganga and this resulted in a large number of hillslides and severe erosion of river banks. But, as these rains ceased after a day, the flood in the Ganga lasted only for a short time, after which the discharge came down. This reduction of water resulted in further concentration of suspended silt in the river waters and the concentration reached as high as 3.6% as against the usual 0.3% at the corresponding time of the year. The Ganga canal was carrying full discharge of 10500 cusecs to supply water to kharif crops and the heavy siltladen waters that were flowing in the Ganga

from 21st July to 28th July continued to flow in the canal. This resulted in the silting of the bed of the canal to a depth of 5 ft. to 8 ft. in the first 7 miles downstream of the head regulator at Mayapur.

Attempts made to flush out the silt did not succeed and the canal was closed on the 13th August. Arrangements have been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to remove the silt by 1st October and let down the water into the canal by 15th October for providing water for rabi crops.

The direct loss on account of the above will be about Rs. 2 crores which consist of cost of removal of sand, and loss of revenue from power and irrigation. Damage to crops can be assessed only after October.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power inspected the canal and suggested measures to be undertaken for avoidance of similar situations in future. He has also offered some machinery from Beas Project for speeding up the work of removal of silt.

It is unusual for Ganga waters to carry heavy silt concentration. Silting of the Ganga Canal could have been considerably reduced, had the canal been closed in time.

श्वी यशपाल सिंह : अघ्यक्ष महोदय, क्या यह सच है कि यह नहर हिन्दुस्तान की सब से पहली नहर है और गंग को इस पहली नहर के साथ कोटि-कोटि मारतवासियों की भावनाएं जुड़ी हुई हैं ? 20 जुलाई से लेकर 13 अगस्त तक इस नहर के ऊपर इतना बड़ा संकट आया किसी विधवा के उपर भी संकट आ जाय तो उसके भी हिमायती खड़े हो जाते हैं लेकिन यह कोटि-कोटि जनता की माता थी जिस के साथ खिलवाड़ किया गया और इसके लिये कोई नहीं कहता की कौन इसका जिम्मेदार है ? 12 फुट तक रेत ही रेत है और फसलों को 8 करोड़ रुपये की इससे हानि हो चुकी है फिर भी कोई यह कहने वाला नहीं है कि इसका क्या उपाय हो सकता है ? 2 करोड़ रुपये मांगते हैं

सिल्ट को दूर करने का लेकिन इंजीनियर्स जिन्होंने पानी को आने दिया उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही अब तक क्यों नहीं की गई? जरू-रत इस बात की थी कि 21 जुलाई को गंग माता के मुहाने बन्द कर दिये जाते लेकिन बिना नकेल के ऊंट की तरह पानी चलने दिया गया और आज 12 फुट रेत उसमें भरी हई है और आज तक भी सरकार नहीं बत-लाती कि इस के लिये कौर जिम्मेदार है? इस सारे की सारी टेजेडी का कौन उत्तरदायी है जबकि आम पब्लिक इस बात को जानती थी कि यह जो कुछ किया जा रहा है यह बिजली घरों में नूकसान की वजह इरादतन से किया जा रहा है? तो जिन लोगों ने यह किया, कहां 13 अगस्त और कहां 20 जलाई, बिना नकेल के ऊंट की तरह नहर बहती रही, उन लोगों के खिलाफ क्या एक्सन लिया गया और 12 करोड रुपये से ज्यादा जो हमारे नेशन का नुकसान हआ है उसके लिये कौन जिम्मेदार है ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Sir, it is true that the Ganga Canal is one of the most important canals of the country. This situation that had arisen there, I want to submit to the House, was the most unprecedented one in the history of the canal. Never before, even in 1924 or in 1963 when the flood levels were very high, such a situation arose.

Actually, what happend was that the water became very silty, a very unusual thing. It became so silty that fishes died by the score and the Municipal Board of Hardwar had to empoly special staff to remove them. It was a very big and difficult problem. This was not noted by the engineers in time.

Unfortunately, there are no regulations about this silt. No regulations were drawn up for opening or closing the head regulator gate depending upon the amount of silt. The regulations were with reference to the maximum flood and not with reference to the silt. It is so

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

not only for this project but for all other Himalayan river systems. So, the excessive silt got deposited and this very unfortunate thing happend. But it was one that could not be visualised by the engineers in charge and the gates were not closed on time.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री (हापुड़): अध्यक्ष महोदय, गंगाकी यह नहर जिस से संबंधित घ्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव हैं उत्तर प्रदेश और उसके पड़ोसी राज्यों की लगभग 10 लाख एकड धरती की सिंचाई करती है और इस नहर के उपर आठ पावर हाउसेज हैं वह लग-भग 50 किलोवोट बिजली पैदा करते हैं। आज इस नहर के बन्द हो जाने से यह सारी हानि हो रही है । मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि 2 करोड़ इ ० तो केवल नहर को साफ करने में घाटा होगा । लेकिन फसलों के संबंध में बताया कि फसलों को कितना नुकसान होगा यह अक्तूबर में बताया जा सकता है। मेरा अनुमान है कि 12 करोड़ से 15 करोड़ तक नूकसान बैठेगा जो इस नहर के पानी बन्द हो जाने से फसलों की हानि होगी। मैं कुछ प्रश्न पूछनाचाहताहं कि 21 जुलाई से यह लिस्ट आना आ रम्भ हआ तो मायापूर हेड वर्कके ऊपर जो इस विभाग के इंजीनियर थे असिस्टेंट इंजीनियर या एग्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर उन्होंने सूपरिटेंडिंग इंजीनियर या चीफ इंजीनियर को किसी प्रकार की सूचनादी या नहीं और अगर दी तो क्या यह सही है कि सुपरिटेंडिंग वहां पर 26 जुलाई को पहुंचे और चीफ इंजीनि-यर 5 अगस्त को पहुंचे और 5 अगस्त को पहुंचने के बाद भी 13 अगस्त को नहर बन्द करने का आर्डर दिया गया ? यानी 15 दिन तक लगात। र नहर के अंदर सिल्ट जाती रही जिसको हटाने के लिए 2 करोड़ इपया सर्च करना पड़ेगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने इसके लिये मुख्य रूप से जिन अधिकारियों का दोष है उनका पता किया है कि वह कौन हैं और उनके खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की ? एक तो यह प्रश्न है ।

दूसरा मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह बात तो आपने नहर के सम्बन्ध में कही । सचाई यह है कि मिट्टी बढ़ने से गंगा का धरातल भी इतना ऊंचा हो गया है कि जिस गंगा को हरिद्वार में कोई पार नहीं कर सकता था आज वह जहां तक पानी में कोई भी पार जा सकता है । गंगा का पानी भी ऊपर बह रहा है जिससे बाढ़ की स्थिति सारे उल्तर प्रदेश में हो गई है गंगा के अंदर मिट्टी जम जाने से । तो गंगा के घरातल को भी नीचा करने के लिये क्या कोई अनुमान आप ने लगाया है कि इस पर कितने करोड़ इपये व्यय होंगे ।

तीसरी चीज मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने क्या इस सम्बन्ध में आप के पास किसी प्रकार के कुछ, सुझाव मेजे हैं कि किस तरह से इस गंभीर समस्या को समाधान किया जा सकता है, यदि भेजे हैं तो वे क्या हैं ?

अन्तिम बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं मेरी जानकारी इस प्रकार की है और समा-चार पत्रों में भी यह बात आई है कि नहर की मिट्टी को साफ करने के लिये वह काम मिलिट्री को सौंपा जाय तो जल्दी हो सकता है और आसानी से गंगा साफ कराई जा सकती है तथा उससे खेतों को भी समय पर पानी मिल सकता है । लेकिन कुछ निहित स्वार्थी अधिकारी मिलिट्री को वह ठेका न देकर, प्राइवेट लोगों को ठेका देना चाहते हैं ताकि उनके आधार पर उनकी जेबें भी भर सके और समय पर गंगा की नहर साफ मी न हो सके । अगर मिलिट्री को ठेका दिया जाता है तो गवर्नमेंट का पैसा गवर्नमेंट की ही जेब में 229

Silting up of

ही रहेगा, तो क्या सरकार उन अधिकारियों या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकुार को वह सुझाव देगी कि नहर की मिट्टो को जल्द से जल्द हटाने के लिये मिलिट्री को काम में लाया जाय, जिससे नहर समय पर साफ हो जाय और खेतों को समय पर पानी मिल सके ?

DR. K. L. RAO: As I said, this Canal is a very important Canal. It is irrigating, not 10 lakh acres, 17 lakh acres, 8 lakh acres in the kharif period and 9 lakh acres in the rabi period. It is not so much important for the power. The amount of power that is produced is very little. You can make it up from other stations. What we are concerned with is about the supply of water to the land. That is more important. That is causing a great deal of concern and that is why we are very anxious to see that at least in the rabi period, the Canal should be able to supply water to the land.

Then, the hon. Member asked about the information that was passed on to the S. E. and C. E. The date that the hon. Member has given is correct. But what happened was that the engineer in-charge never thought about the silt. There was no regulation for his guidance. Not only in regard to this Canal but for Sarda Canal and many other canals, they do not have the regulations to operate in relation to the silt in the river. Hereafter, I would tell the concerned states that they should maintain silt observations during floods and monsoon months and, when the silt is more than the specified amount, of the order of 0.2 per cent, they should immediately give instructions to all concerned to take necessary action. This has not been done before. In the absence of any instructions, this unfortuna thing has happened. That is why it is very difficult to fix responsibility. The engineer incharge is formally responsible but in the absence of the regulations. I do not know whether it is correct to say he is actually responsible for it.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) You are doing nothing against those officers who are guilty. DR. K. L. RAO: As I have already said, there was concentration of the heavy silt and that was carried over into the river. They had no instructions and they did not close the gates. Of course, it would have been appreciated very much if the engineer incharge had known it before, closed the gates and had not allowed this kind of heavy silt. It is very difficult to fix the responsibility as such. Of course, the U. P. Government will look into that.

In regard to the bed of the river, I have inspected some portions of it and I find that it is not so alarming or anything of that type. It has risen near Belakuchi by 35 ft. Near Hardwar-Rishikesh, I do not see much appreciable rise in the bed of the river. The water is still flowing. When the surveys are made after the monsoon, we will know more about it. But, I think, essentially, the rise is not so much in the river in the plains because of the good velocity in the river and some of the silt would have been washed out.

Then, he asked about the work being given to the military authorities. Actually, the U. P. Government have approached the military authorities and asked them to take some work. But the Border Roads Organisation have said that they have very heavy work for themselves on road from Haadwar-Rishikesh to Joshimath. In the context of that, I am now arranging to send some material and equipment from Beas Project.

The hon. Member is essentially correct when he said that the work is divided at the rate of one furlong for each contractor. The state engineers are making earnest efforts. We have got to watch the work carefully. I am not very much happy about it. We are trying to see whether we can use as much machinery as possible because it is very essential that this canal sbould carry water during the next Rabi period. Otherwise there will be heavy loss.

भी प्रकाश वीर झास्त्री: अध्यक्ष महोदय, आ पने मेरा प्रक्त सुनाहोगा 2.1 जुलाई को पहाड़ टूट कर गिरने से यह मिट्टी आ नी शुरू हुई और 13 अगस्त को नहर बन्द करने के आ ईर दिये गये। इस अवधि में बहांचोफ AUGUST 25, 1970

[श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री]

इन्जीनियर साहब 5 अगस्त को पहुंचे । उस से पहले चीफ इन्जीनियर को सूचना मिलने के बाद भी नहीं पहुंचे स्पष्ट रूप से जब यह पता लग जाता है कि गंगा में पहाड़ टूट-टूट कर आ रहे हैं, नहर भर्ती चली जा रही है तो चीफ इन्जीनियर साहब का 5 अगस्त को वहां पहुचना और फिर 13 अगस्त को नहर बन्द करने का आर्डर देना—ये सब बातें स्पष्ट करती हैं कि दोष किस पर आता है । डा० राव जैसे कुशल मन्त्री को इस बात को छुपाने का प्रयत्न नहीं करना चाहिये ।

दूसरी बात-किसानों के लिये सबसे आवक्यक बात यह है कि नहर कम से कम देर तक बन्द रहे और उसकी मिट्टी जल्द से हट जाय-जब मिलिट्री इस काम को आसानी से कर सकती है तो प्राइवेट लोगों को ठेका देने की बात क्यों सोची जा रही है ?

भीमती तारकेक्वरी सिन्हाः (बाढ़) एस्सिटेंट इन्जीनियर ने टेलीग्राम भेजा था मन्त्री महोदय उसका भी हवाला दें। अघ्यक्ष महोदय, रेस्पोस्बिल्टी छोटे-छोटे अफसरों पर डाल दी जाती है और बड़े आफिसर स्टाक-फ्री निकल जाते हैं।

DR. K. L. RAO: What the hon. Member said is correct that the Chief Engineer arrived on the spot on the 5th. The Chief Engineer thought that he would be able to flush out the silt in the canal by letting in water. Therefore, he was admitting the water through the head works and was trying to remove the silt. But he could not succeed. Probably if he contacted us at that stage, I would have advised him against this kind of trial because the canal is silted to such an extent that with the amount of water that can be sent, it is not possible to wash out the silt. Any way he tried his best but he could not succeed.

With regard to the suggestion made by the hon. Member, as I submitted earlier, the Border Roads Organisation which has a large amount of machinery for this type of work, are not able to under take the work. They have written very clearly. They said they have got their own work and they will not be able to do this. As I submitted earlier, I will watch the work week by week and if we find anywhere that the contractors are not able to keep up the programme, we will try our best to get machines from other projects.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन्होंने इन्टेन्शनली इस रेत को भरने दिया, क्या उनके खिलाफ कोई एनक्वायरी कमीशन बैठाया जा रहा है, क्या कोई जुडीशियल एनक्वायरी हो रही है ?

अष्यक्ष महोदयः आप तो बाद में सो जाते हैं।

RE. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT (QUERY)

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN (Badagara): I have given notice of an adjournment motion on the Sale of Kerala girls to convents in Europe. Sir, I may be permitted. I have written to you to make a statement. It is an important matter. (*Interruptions*) In Europe these girls are sent to officers as servant maids and they used as concubines.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) : This is a serious matter. It could be discussed here.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai): The Sunday Times of London has written about the torture on these girls. This is a shocking matter. Without importing any communal passion into it, we must take it as an injury inflicted on Indians.

भी कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने इसके बारे में लिखा है। ये लोगों की गरीबी का नाजायज फायदा उठा रहे हैं, हमारे देश की इज्जत इस प्रकार से दूसरे देशों में बिक रही है। मैं चाहता हूं कि इसके ऊपर जो एडजानंमेंट मोशन दिया है, उसको आप मंजूर कीजिये, यह मामला काल-एटेन्शन से हल होने वाला नहीं है। इस तरह लोगों की गरीबी का नाजायज फायदा उठा