

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 30, 1974/Vaisakha 10,
1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Bipin Behari Varma who passed away at Patna on the 28th April, 1974 at the age of 82.

Shri Varma was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1934 to 1939 and 1945 to 1947, of Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952 and of the First and Second Lok Sabha during the years 1952-62. Later, he was a Member of the Rajya Sabha during the year 1962-68. As an associate of Mahatma Gandhi, he suffered imprisonment for the freedom of the country. An agriculturist and a social worker, he took keen interest in the relief activities and Harijan uplift. He served on a number of organisations and local bodies of his State.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of River Boards under
River Boards Act, 1956

*894. SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO:
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND
POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any River Boards have
been established under the River
Boards Act, 1956; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO: The River Boards Act was passed in 1956 to provide for the River Boards and along with that, about 10 years ago, the Inter-State Water Disputes Act was also passed

Unfortunately, no State River Board could be created because of the reticence on the part of the State Governments. So far as the Constitution is concerned, the hon. Minister is well aware that, particularly the inter-State waters are the national property. Therefore, the Constitution specifically envisages that the subject of development and utilisation of inter-State waters comes within the purview of the Parliament and the Central Government. But the Government has not approached the problem from the national point of view. I would like to know whether the Government will take serious steps to make the State Governments feel the need of the Act which they have passed. Otherwise, do they want to keep a particular statute as a dead-letter?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Even when the need has not been accepted by many of the States, I do not think it could be made more acceptable to them.

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR: I would like to get a confirmation from the hon. Minister if there is any proposal for all the Chief Ministers of all the States who constitute the members of the Boards if they any such Boards.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has replied that there is no River Board constituted. This does not arise.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: May I know whether under Section 10 of the River Boards Act, 1956, any Advisory Committee or Committees have been formed for the execution of the work under Sections 13 and 14 of the River Boards Act and, if so, the names of the persons on these Committees and the important river water disputes and schemes undertaken and disposed of by them?

MR. SPEAKER: You are going a step further.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Sections 13 and 14 of the River Boards Act provide that river water disputes, if any, and some functions under the Board will be executed by the Government....

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the Boards are formed, how can the Committees come in?

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: I want to know whether any Committee has been formed by the Government. Has any State Government asked for any Committee to be formed?

SHRI K. C. PANT: No Board has been formed.

श्री बदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : अगर बोर्ड बनाना नहीं था तो यह कानून क्यों बनाया गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप ने इन्फॉर्मेशन मांगी है, उन्होंने इन्फॉर्मेशन दी है ।

श्री बदल बिहारी बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बाहर इस बात के लिये घोषणा होती है कि पार्लियामेंट पर 1 मिनट के लिये 10 हजार रुपया खर्च होता है । हम कानून बनाते हैं लेकिन उस कानून पर प्रमल नहीं होता । अगर बोर्ड नहीं बनाना था तो इसके लिये कानून क्यों बनाया गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर फैमिली प्लानिंग का कानून बना हुआ है कि बच्चे न पैदा हों तो यह फैमिली प्लानिंग का कानून कब काम आएगा । आप जैसे लोगों के लिये फैमिली प्लानिंग एक्ट किस काम का ।

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी : कुछ नदियाँ ऐसी हैं जिनका उद्गम स्थान अपने देश से बाहर है, उन के सम्बन्ध में यदि कोई बाढ़-निवारण या जायें तो उस के लिये अपने क्या उपाय किया है ? जैसे बिहार की कोसी और गण्डक नदियाँ हैं, उनका उद्गम स्थान देश से बाहर है, ऐसी जगहों के लिये क्या कोई रिबर बोर्ड है या कोई इन्फ्लैटिबल कमेटी बनी है, इनका निबटारा कैसे होता है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : यह प्रश्न तो देश के अन्दर जो नदियाँ हैं उन के बेसिन का प्रश्न है, रिबर-बोर्ड्स का सम्बन्ध भी उन से ही है । दूसरे देशों के साथ जहाँ इस तरह की बातचीत करनी होती है तो वह इस बोर्ड के दायरे में नहीं होती है, उसके लिये अलग से बातचीत होती है ताकि कोई राजनैतिक... .

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी : लेकिन क्या उसके लिये कोई एजेंसी है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : उस के लिए हर देश में अलग अलग बात करनी होती है । इसमें एजेंसी का कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है, हर नदी के बारे में अलग-अलग बात करनी होती है ।

SRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: From the reply given by the hon. Minister, it appears that the River Boards have not been set up due to some opposition from the State Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the Boards which were envisaged to be set up under this Act, whether any definite discussions took place with the State Governments regarding the setting up of these Boards?

SRI K. C. PANT: In reply to Mr. Tiwari—I just remember—I am excluding the Indus Commission and the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Commission; that was in regard to another matter; not Nepal.

About this question discussions were held with the States in the early Sixties, and Gujarat agreed in the beginning and then withdrew its assent. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh did not agree; Bihar opposed it; Tamil Nadu and Karnataka did not feel that it was necessary; U.P. thought that no useful purpose would be served; and so on. This was the kind of replies that we got and so, no Board has been set up. But this does not mean that the Government has topped thinking in terms of some agency or mechanism for overall planning of river basins as suggested by the Irrigation Commission. That is under consideration separately. That does not arise out of this.

Visit of Chairman of Economic Bureau of Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq

*895. **SRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Economic Bureau of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq visited Delhi during the month of March, 1974;

(b) whether he had discussions with the Petroleum and Planning Ministers of India; and

(c) if so, the nature of discussions held and the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):(a) and (b). Yes. Sir.

(c) The discussions were aimed at further strengthening the existing economic and technical relations between the two countries. These discussions resulted in identifying specific projects for mutual cooperation in the fields of Industry, Agriculture and Irrigation, Trade and facilities for training and education. It was decided to establish a permanent Indo-Iraq Joint Commission to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the existing and future agreements in various fields and to explore and identify new avenues for broadening the cooperation between the two countries.

SRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: You would kindly notice, Sir, that this question was transferred from the Ministry of Planning to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, and the hon. Minister has mentioned industry, trade, agriculture, irrigation, and education but nothing has been said about his own Ministry. I would like to know what was the discussion which took place between the Chief of the Economic Bureau of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq and the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals which is answering this question.

SRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: In the field of training it was agreed that we would give in-plant training to the technicians from Iraq. It was also agreed to establish a Petroleum Institute in Iraq by our people from our Ministry. We have also already despatched a team which will carry out exploration for drilling oil in Iraq and lease of land has been given to us. All these facilities were discussed and the whole agreement was signed by my senior colleague, Shri D. K. Borooah.

SRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: May I know whether the visit of the Chief