

Monitored Radio Report

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EXPERTS AVER WATER PLENTIFUL IN SUTLEJ

Indian observers are surprised that the bountiful flow of the Sutlej, which has more than doubled during the last 2 days, is ignored by Pakistan. There is so much water in the Sutlej that only a small portion of it (could) be used by India and Pakistan even if all canals are kept fully open on both sides of the border.

The Indian experts are also puzzled at Pakistan's arithmetic, which permitted the allegation on the day of the opening of the Bhakra Canal that the Sutlej has already suffered a diminution at Ferozepore of over 12,000 cubic seconds. Had this much water been withdrawn, which incidentally, is not the fact, its effect at Ferozepore, 120 miles from Nangal, could only have been felt after 60 hours of the opening of the Bhakra Canal. In this case it seems to have preceded it, defying the laws of time and speed!

The fact is that for purposes of diverting water to the Bhakra Canal on July 8 the discharge in other canals was purposely reduced. Several days before the opening of the canal the Pakistani press had drawn a lurid picture of "green colonies turning into a desert and people in distress migrating to other areas of West Pakistan."

Pakistan's official spokesman has reiterated that the talks in Washington continue, which is far from the truth known to India. The Indian members of the working party have no official contact with their Pakistani counterparts. In any case, the working party ceased to exist after India's withdrawal, and if the Pakistani members are still talking with the World Bank, they could only do so outside the terms of Eugene Black's letter dated Mar. 13, 1952, which set up the working party.

India has not resiled from the standstill agreement of Mar. 1, 1952. Even from the point of time, with withdrawal of water, which incidentally has not yet made any difference to the total, has taken place after a breakdown of the negotiations. The agreement was never intended to outlive the talks.