

श्री बरना कोटा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान नहर में नौकरों चलाने का कार्य किस विभाग के प्रांतिन होगा ?

हारिजन मुहम्मद इम्राहीम : एक वस्तुकील विभाग है हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर सब जगह इस के लिए ।

Calcutta National Bank

*159. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Official Liquidator of the Calcutta National Bank (in liquidation) in paying the creditors of the said Bank;

(b) whether representations or complaints have been received that the progress has been tardy or slow;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) how much more time will be needed for the completion of the task of liquidation and paying up the creditors?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat) (a) The Court Liquidator has disbursed or made provision in full for preferential payments under Section 230 of the Companies Act and Section 43-A of the Banking Companies Act, and three dividends of 10% each to all the ordinary creditors have also been declared.

(b) and (c). No major complaint has been received, but the Central Government, on its own initiative, has assisted in the disposal of the bank's immovable property, so as to expedite payments to the depositors and the progress of liquidation generally.

(d) It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the liquidation proceedings will be over, but every effort will be made to complete the winding up proceedings as early as possible.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The liquidation proceedings are conducted apparently under the supervision of the High Court, and while interference in matters pertaining to High Courts and their proceedings is not desirable, has Government considered the possibility and the necessity of at least dropping gentle hints to the High Court that the matter might be expedited as far as they can?

Mr. Speaker: He should not advise like that. The hon. Member should not advise that some hints be given to the High Court.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): It is not possible and it is not proper for the Government to drop any hints to the High Court.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Answering a question as far back as September, that is, six months ago, the hon. Minister said that further payments will depend on the extent of future recoveries and that litigation for recovery or realisation of the assets is time-consuming. That was the word used in September. Today I find that the position is almost the same or even identical. Is the hon. Minister in a position to assure the House that while litigation is time-consuming, the creditors of the Bank will not be consumed by time in the process?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is the position?

Shri Morarji Desai: Even if that happens, I cannot help.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is strange on the part of Government. Am I to understand that the Government is helpless in the matter?

Mr. Speaker: A question was asked and the answer has been given. What else does he want?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is that answer helpful or proper?

Shri Morarji Desai: When it is in the hands of the liquidator who is

under the orders of the High Court, Government cannot do anything.

Power Projects

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*160. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Basappa:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the special steps taken by Government to accelerate the progress of power projects in view of the shortage of power in the country;

(b) whether as a result of these steps, there is any likelihood of completing any of the projects ahead of schedule;

(c) if so, the names of such projects; and

(d) the additional expenditure to be incurred?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement:

(a) The State Governments, State Electricity Boards and other project authorities concerned have been and are being requested to ensure that the tempo of work on the projects is stepped up by diverting resources in money, material and technical personnel, where necessary, and also by arranging for additional working shifts. The Central Government have undertaken to help in speedy release of foreign exchange and materials, where necessary. Teams of Officers from the Central Government are touring the States to study in detail the difficulties in the way of progress of execution of projects.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Neyveli Thermal Power Station Extensions, (ii) Pathratu Thermal Project (iii) Singauli (Obra) Thermal Project, (iv) Delhi 'C' Station, (v) Chandrapura Thermal Power

Station (DVC) and (vi) Durgapur Thermal Power Station (DVC). In addition, the Central Water and Power Commission have recommended to speed up the execution of some of the Third Plan projects as a result of which it will be possible to obtain power benefits earlier than the original expectations. The Commission have also recommended the taking up of advance action on some Fourth Plan schemes in the Third Plan itself to enable realisation of benefits in the first two years of the Fourth Plan.

(d) According to tentative estimates, the additional expenditure involved for speeding up the execution of the Third and Fourth Plan projects amount to about Rs. 160 crores.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the statement, it is said:

"The Commission have also recommended the taking up of advance action on some Fourth Plan schemes in the Third Plan itself to enable realisation of benefits in the first two years of the Fourth Plan."

I want to know whether it is a fact that some projects are likely to suffer because of lack of foreign exchange and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure foreign exchange supply during the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Alagesan: At present, there is no anxiety about foreign exchange for the Third Plan schemes that have already been undertaken. What the hon. Member has in mind, perhaps, is with reference to the Fourth Plan. Advance action, we propose to take even about the Fourth Plan schemes even now so that the needed generating capacity is created in the first two years of the Fourth Plan.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is also stated:

"In addition, the Central Water and Power Commission have recommended to speed up the execution of some of the Third Plan projects as a result of which it will be possible to obtain power