

National Planning Council

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 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Oza:
 Shri Utiya:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up the National Planning Council;

(b) if so, what would be the functions of this Council; and

(c) who will be the members of this Council?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). It is proposed to constitute a National Planning Council consisting of fifteen to twenty distinguished scientists, engineers, economists, administrators and other experts which would advise the Planning Commission on problems which may be referred to it. The actual composition of this Council is under consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What will be the fate of the National Development Council when this new Council is formed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The National Development Council is a body representing the various State Ministries. This is purely an advisory body of experts dealing with specific problems referred to it by the Planning Commission.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Who suggested the formation of such a Council?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the Prime Minister suggested its formation.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What would be the fate of the planning cells in the Planning Commission in view of

the fact that this new Planning Council is going to be set up?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This is a body which will advise the Planning Commission, and this Council will be presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Perhaps, if there are any important discussions, other Members of the Planning Commission will also be associated with it. The Planning Commission has to exist for a Council of this nature to be formed.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the experts would be drawn from various States and whether they will be serving on it in an advisory capacity or their decisions would be considered to be final ones?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I have said, it is purely advisory. The Planning Commission will examine whatever advice they give on specific problems and accept them to the extent they think is desirable. They will be drawn widely from various parts of the country. I have enumerated the broad character of the Council.

Shri Oza: In view of the fact that even at present some members of the Planning Commission are experts in various spheres, may I know whether after the institution of this National Planning Council the composition of the planning body will also be changed or it will remain the same?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as the reorganisation of the Planning Commission is concerned it is a different matter. As regards the fact that they are experts, suppose it happens that there are five or six members of the Planning Commission, and there are various subjects, which probably could be grouped under fifteen or twenty heads, for which we need people who can advise. I do not think this is a sort of supersession of the Planning Commission at all; this is only ancillary to the existing Planning Commission.

Shri Nath Pai: In view of the fact that there is already a plethora of advisory panels, councils, committees, and the Planning Commission under the terms of its constitution is itself an advisory body, may I know what necessitated the constitution of this new advisory body and whether it will not be a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth and too many advisory committees advising the advisory Planning Commission?

An hon. Member: It is Parkinson's law in operation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think that it is because of the realisation of the inadequacy of concentration given by these *ad hoc* bodies that the Prime Minister says that there is the need for a council of this nature. I would like to read out extracts from his views on this matter. And the extract which is relevant is as follows:

"He felt that the members of the Planning Commission should keep in the closest touch with the outside world and with the thinking of the people who were specialists in various fields. He felt that once a person took up office, his contact with the outside world tended to become limited. There was, therefore, need for a body of say ten or fifteen Members who should be selected carefully and who will be in close touch with the outside world. There should be a close contact between them and the members of the Planning Commission with frequent meetings held at least once in two months. He felt that specific problems should be posed to this body and that individual members or small groups of members of this body might be presented with problems and might sit for one or two months and give their considered views on those problems. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission will be the chairman of this body."

Shri Nath Pai: On a point of order. One point remains unanswered. I had asked what the status of the advice given by this advisory council to the Planning Commission would be. That aspect is not quite clear.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Whatever status they enjoy at present will still remain.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We have gone through the speech of the Prime Minister on this subject, a portion of which has been quoted now, but we have not been able to know from it the difficulties experienced by Government in the course of the three Plans when the Planning Commission have been able to associate a panel of experts such as economists and others. So, we would like to know what difficulties were faced and how those panels fell short of requirements to meet which this council is now being suggested.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is very difficult for me to outline what the difficulties were, but what happens is this. Having been a member of some of these councils, I know that we meet to discuss certain problems for a day or two; there are a number of people and everybody wants to speak, and ultimately we end up, perhaps, without any final conclusions. The idea of this planning council is that there should be people who know a particular subject or are working in that field, who will come and sit here in Delhi; they will not be members of the Planning Commission, because they are people who are outside and they cannot give up their work. The Prime Minister himself had indicated in his speech that the number of experts available in the country was not many and they had other work to do, but any person who has other work to do and who is prepared to spend say, a week, every two months, sitting here and working on a particular problem either with other people or with the Planning Commission and giving his advice in a specific

way would be useful. That was why, relating it to our past experience, the Prime Minister felt that there was need for a body of this nature where people would conduct this work literally and stay here for some time; it may be a week or a fortnight or it may be that they meet only twice a year; it will depend on the individual subject and the particular inclination of the members chosen.

श्री गुलशन : पहली तीन योजनाओं से सदियों से पिछड़े हुए वर्गों को कोई फायदा नहीं हुआ। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो राष्ट्रीय योजना परिषद् बनेगी, क्या उसमें पिछड़े वर्गों का भी ध्यान रखा जायेगा और उनके नुमाइन्दे भी उस परिषद् में रखे जायेंगे।

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered that question.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have answered it but I can tell the hon. Member that it is the feeling of the Deputy Chairman and some of us too that the sociological problems connected with planning have not been given that adequate attention that should have been given to it in the previous Plans, and the question of the backward classes would form an important part of any consideration of the sociological aspects of planning, and I think that this matter will be given due attention.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has advised soft-peddling of spectacular projects in favour of more efficient working of existing projects whereas there are other Members in Government who prefer the Nehru approach of industrialisation at all costs? In that context, may I know whether it is the National Planning Council, whose verdict will be final or whether the verdict of the Planning Commission will be final or whether Government would resolve the differences by themselves?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If I may humbly submit, there is an element of non-sequiter between the first and second part of the question. I would like to humbly tell the hon. Member that the presumptions behind the question are wrong. The Prime Minister did not ask for any projects to be soft-peddled; only he felt that projects that had been taken up should be completed quickly before we started taking up new projects, not soft-pedal them. It is undoubtedly good to complete projects and get the benefit of those projects rather than launch out on a number of projects all of which will take a long time to bear fruit.

So far as the National Planning Council is concerned .

Shri Hem Barua: What about the other part, whether there are other members in the Government who are in favour of the Nehru approach to industrialisation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: When the basis itself is wrong, when there is no dichotomy in the matter of opinion, where is the question of dealing with the opinion that the other people have? The Prime Minister has not adumbrated a view which is in contradiction or even contrary to the accepted views of this Government. He is in full sympathy with it, but he has said that whatever you take in hand you should complete before you launch into new ones. About that, there can be no difference of opinion so far as any intelligent person is concerned.

Shri Nath Pai: In full sympathy with or in full agreement with?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as the National Planning Council is concerned, it is to advise the Planning Commission. It is not something imposed on the Planning Commission. Its deliberations will be presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Therefore, there is no question of conflict between views.

Shri Nath Pai: Is the Prime Minister in full agreement or is he in sympathy with opinion with which he disagrees.

Mr. Speaker: Something in between the two!

Shri Hem Barua: He used the words 'in sympathy with'.

Shri Nath Pai: There is an implied disagreement.

D.V.C. Navigational Canal

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*112. { **Shri D. D. Puri:**
 Shri Tridib Kumar
 Chaudhuri:
 Shri Heda:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Minister of Irrigation and Waterways of the West Bengal Government in the West Bengal Legislative Council on the 8th October, 1964 to the effect that the taking over of the D.V.C. Navigational Canal by West Bengal has been held up because of the fact that the Canal has no prospect of being put to commission because of the failure of the D.V.C. to supply water in the canal for navigational purposes; and

(b) what is the actual position and when the canal is likely to be put to commission?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government of West Bengal have reported that the statement made by the West Bengal Minister for Irrigation and Waterways in the State Legislative Council on the 8th October, 1964 was to the effect that the matter concerning navigation in the DVC Navigation Canal was under examination by the experts and that pending

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receipt of the report of the experts, the State Government had not taken over the "navigation" canal from the DVC for operation and maintenance.

The canal is complete in all respects, but its commercial operation is to be attended to by the State Government who have set up a Water Transport Board for examination of the feasibility of commercial exploitation of the canal. The question of availability of water has been examined by the Central Water and Power Commission and the Chief Engineer, West Bengal, and the findings are the following:—

- (i) Based on 16 hours working of Locks, it would be possible to operate the canal for navigation up to March as well as rabi irrigation facilities to about 70,000 acres.
- (ii) To explore the possibility of extending navigation facility throughout the year, it would be necessary to make observarabi irrigation facilities to about 70,000 acres.

West Bengal Minister for Irrigation and Waterways in his statement before the West Bengal Legislative Council in 8-10-64 said "The question is not whether the canal is navigable or may be made navigable but the question is one of economic nature, is of commercial nature". The West Bengal Government have, however, reported that the matter is still under examination by an Expert Committee set up by them.

Shri D. D. Puri: It is clear from the statement that the feasibility of the commercial exploitation of the canal has not yet been worked out. When will it be done?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The feasibility from the point of view of supply of water has been established. The canal is completely navigable and that also has been acknowledged by the hon. Minister of West Bengal. The only question they are examining now is