

see that sanctions and actual allotments of money are done quicker and there is autonomy in that respect also, so that the heads of public undertakings do not have to wait for long periods before sanctions and allotments of money are actually made?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The financial control in respect of public enterprises is very much different from that for other ministries and departments of government. They have got autonomy and things are done expeditiously.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Is it not a fact that the two steps contemplated i.e. selection of private sector experts and prolongation of period from 4 to 6 years, are proving wholly inadequate with regard to improving the functioning of public sector and that it is necessary now to go deeper into these problems with a view to really improving the functioning of the public sector?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The hon. Member has been a champion of the public sector. I would only plead with him to have some patience and I believe things will improve.

Shri Ranga: Have Government given proper consideration to the recommendations and observations made by the Public Undertakings Committee? In view of the fact that the committee have found that frequent changes have been made in the top officers of the Shipping Corporation and Steel Corporation, have Government come to the conclusion that they should avoid making these frequent transfers and changes and a definite term of tenure is assured to the top executive and as far as possible I.A.S. and I.C.S. people should not be foisted on these undertakings, as has happened in regard to the oil and gas concerns, and technical people should be preferred whenever it is possible?

Shri L. N. Mishra: About the first part, that is exactly the point made

by Mr. Barve also. That is a very important one and that is being examined. As I said in my main reply, we are going to have these appointments for 4 to 6 years. Frequent changes have to be stopped in the interests of efficiency. About IAS and ICS officers being heads of these undertakings, this is also a policy decision. Efforts are being made to put technocrats as heads of these undertakings as far as possible.

Setting up of Central Rajasthan Canal Authority

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*216. **Dr. Karni Singhji:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Bade:
Shri Kindar Lal:
Shri Vishram Prasad:

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

(a) the reasons for the delay in setting up the Central Rajasthan Canal Authority; and

(b) when Government propose to start full-scale operations for the development of the area through which the Rajasthan Canal would pass?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Further detailed studies in respect of administration and other related issues are under study.

(b) Development works in the Rajasthan Canal area are already being carried out, and it is proposed to step up their progress.

Dr. Karni Singhji: May I know when the work of the lift channel from Birdwal will be taken up, what is the amount involved and whether it has been sanctioned? May I know

whether any proposals have been received from Rajasthan Government to extend the scope of this lift channel to include Churu district also?

Dr. K. L. Rao: The lift channel is already included in the sanctioned project. But it has been under consideration to extend the lift channel more than what was intended originally. Originally it was to serve 2-1/2 lakh acres; now it is proposed to extend it to nearly 5 to 6 lakh acres. Regarding the inclusion of the Churu area, we have asked the State Government to investigate and see if there are any possibilities. We have not received any report so far. If any favourable report is received, naturally that also will be included.

Dr. Karni Singhji: May I know why in spite of the assurance given by the then Minister of Finance, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, that the Rajasthan Canal project would be taken over by the centre, the same was not done? May I know why the Finance Minister now wishes to visit Rajasthan Canal Project, and why it has been cancelled?

Dr. K. L. Rao: There have been some change of circumstances since the ex-Finance Minister visited the area. At that time it was thought that this project could be taken over by the Government of India, but the legal advice was that unless there are two States involved, for a single State an authority of the Government of India cannot be appointed. Therefore, this authority has to be appointed under the State. That is being considered. The present Finance Minister just wanted to acquaint himself with the work that is in progress in the Rajasthan Canal. His visit has nothing to do with the Rajasthan Canal Authority as such.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Banking in Rural Areas

*217. **Shri B. K. Das:**

Dr. M. M. Das:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banking habits of the people even in rural areas are increasing very rapidly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Postal Savings Banks and the few branches of the State Bank of India and some other Commercial Banks have been found to be inadequate for the need;

(c) if so, the steps taken to augment the banking facilities in rural areas; and

(d) whether the establishment of a separate National Savings Bank mainly to mobilise the resources in the rural areas is under consideration of Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) Yes, Sir, as indicated by the growth in recent years of deposits in banking offices in rural and semi-urban areas.

(b) and (c). The State Bank and its subsidiaries and the commercial and co-operative banks have already about 2250 offices in rural and semi-urban areas. The number of branch Post Offices doing savings bank work, which function mostly in rural areas, is also now nearly 37,800. Further the State Bank, its subsidiaries and other commercial banks are implementing a branch expansion programme to cover as many unbanked areas as possible. The Co-operative banks and the Post Office Savings