

mechanised boats to all the trainees who have completed their training.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): It has not been possible to supply to all the trainees as we have not been able to import adequate number of diesel engines for mechanised boats but as far as the trainees are concerned we are giving them preference and almost all the trainees have now been supplied with mechanised boats.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether the Government is aware that some of the trawlers that the West Bengal Government has, have been damaged and cannot be used and that for a long time this whole scheme has been run at a big loss? I want to know whether the whole matter has been investigated and whether any help from the central Government will be available to make it a really profitable scheme.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have no information as to the damaged condition of any of these trawlers; we will enquire.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The hon. Minister referred to Andhra and the east coast. Is there not as much, if not more, scope for such fishing in the troubled waters of Kerala off the West Coast?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Bade.

Shri Tyagi: He means red-herring!

श्री बड़े क्या यह बात सच है कि जापान गवर्नमेंट भारत सरकार से डीप फिशिंग के वास्ते भी धर्वा सी है और क्या भारत सरकार इस में उनकी मदद लेना चाहती है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to that we had some proposals but no proposal has succeeded so far. The only proposal that has reached the Central Government is the one that has already been mentioned by my hon. colleague the Parliamentary

Secretary. No other proposal has come before the Central Government.

Damodar Valley Corporation

*1505. **Shri Tyagi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken on para 69 of the report of P. S. Rau Committee which had been appointed to investigate into the economic working of the Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) whether this committee pointed out that the value of inadmissible claims allowed to one of their contractors was Rs. 119 lakhs; and

(c) whether this expenditure has been regularised or refunded to the Corporation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) The matter was referred for arbitration.

(b) Yes; Sir.

(c) The arbitrator announced his award on 12th April, 1961. The Corporation has, however, filed an appeal in the Calcutta High Court for setting aside the award. The matter is subjudice.

Shri Tyagi: What was the result of the award? I want to know whether the decree was in favour of the Government or whether the case was dismissed.

Shri Alagesan: Before the arbitrator both the DVC and the contractor filed their claims. The arbitrator went into all these claims and announced his award.

Some Hon. Members: We do not hear him; he is not audible.

Mr. Speaker: What was the award?

Shri Alagesan: There were claims preferred both by the DVC and by the contractor before the arbitrator. The arbitrator went into all the individual claims and gave his award. But the

net result of the award is that the DVC has to pay to the contractor more than Rs. 46 lakhs. On this, legal opinion was taken, and the DVC has now taken it to the Calcutta High Court whose decision is being awaited.

Shri Tyagi: The claim of the DVC was that a sum of Rs. 119 lakhs has been paid in excess to the contractor, and now, after the award, not only this is not being realised but the DVC has to pay to the same contractor Rs. 45 lakhs or so more. This is the condition now. Is that the position today?

Shri Alagesan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: That is what the award says. All the claims and counter-claims were referred to the arbitrator who has come to the decision and given his award that the Corporation shall have to pay Rs. 45 lakhs or Rs. 46 lakhs. That is now before the high court.

Shri Tyagi: I want to ascertain whether the Committee had pointed out that the value of inadmissible claims allowed to one of their contractors was Rs. 119 lakhs. Is that a fact or not?

Shri Alagesan: That was the finding of the Rau Committee.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Have the Government made any enquiries as to which officer of the Corporation was responsible for this default because of which this huge loss occurred to the Corporation and, if so, has any action been taken against him?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say which officer was held responsible. Several committees and several individuals went into this question and assessed the loss differently. It was also the Rau Committee's assessment, namely, Rs. 119 lakhs was the amount that was overpaid. It is on this that the matter is proceeding.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We would like to know how and under what conditions this default was made and whether any action was taken against the men concerned. We also want to know whether the Government has fixed the responsibility for this loss of Rs. 119 lakhs plus Rs. 46 lakhs.

Shri Alagesan: The DVC was for some time not agreeing to the proposition that overpayment was made. Then, it was gone into by the Public Accounts Committee also. It was then decided or recommended by the PAC that this matter should be taken to the arbitrator, and this is the result.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know the name of the contractor and the name of the arbitrator?

Shri Alagesan: The name of the contractor is Messrs Hind Patel Company. The name of the arbitrator is Dr. S. N. Bannerjee, a retired Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether in this matter there was a conflict of opinion between the Advocate-General in Calcutta and the Law Department here in the Central Government?

Mr. Speaker: We need not go into that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the Government's attention been drawn to a statement made by a spokesman of the Bihar Government, which has appeared in the Press, to the effect that the Damodar Valley Corporation be wound up, alleging that the West Bengal Government is gradually withdrawing from the DVC?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing altogether.

Diversion of Western Jamuna Canal

*1507. **Shri Lahri Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waters of Western Jamuna Canal originally earmarked for Haryana region