

of the Hirakud Dam, but on the advice of the Planning Commission they were suspended. Now the Estimates Committee have recommended that this may be resumed, and we are examining it.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I take it that the Centre launched upon this expenditure in Hirakud without taking the State into confidence and getting their approval?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is not a question of getting the approval of the State Government for launching into this project. Certain facilities are being provided and whenever the necessary traffic offers, the necessary provision will also be made, but at this stage investigations are being carried on with regard to the Mahanadi river.

Shri T. N. Singh: The Minister is here. He can enlighten us on this point.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow a general discussion on this point. The hon. Member may call for a half-hour discussion if he is interested. How many questions am I to allow?

Shri Yajnik: May I know what steps are being taken for mechanising countrycraft and small boats in this river or any other river in India.

Shri Humayun Kabir: There are proposals to that effect, and in fact, at present we are carrying on experiments with certain kinds of flat-bottomed crafts to see whether the push-type boat or the tow-type boat will be more suitable.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Even after the completion of the Hirakud Project, may I know whether these investigations that have been conducted will again be referred to the Gokhale Committee or steps will be taken for inland transport?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Gokhale Committee is in possession of all the materials. As a layman if I may venture an opinion, I would say that till

the Hirakud dam was completed it was not possible to undertake some of the investigations because formerly the discharge was something like 1,000 to 3,000 cusecs in the Mahanadi and after the dam is completed it will be over 8,000 cusecs. That will certainly change the character of the river.

Shri Supkar: Inasmuch as navigation forms one of the purposes of all multi-purpose projects, may I know since when the initiative for launching any inland water transport scheme has been shifted to the State Government instead of its being the sole responsibility of the Centre?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This is in the Constitution, and not anything which has been done by accepting any multi-purpose project.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: This particular scheme is a part of the master plan for the development of inland waterways. May I know how far the master plan has progressed and what shape it is likely to take in the next five years?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As far as I can judge at this stage, we will be able to complete the investigations and probably begin work on the Buckingham Canal, and some work will be done on the Ganga-Brahmaputra waterways system also. Beyond that, with the funds which are available to us, I doubt very much if any other scheme can be taken up during the Second Plan.

Community Development and N.E.S. Blocks in Bombay

*1656. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state

(a) the number of National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks opened in Bombay State during the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of such blocks proposed to be opened under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a)

Community Projects	5
Community Development Blocks	34
(including 23 by conversion from NES)	
NES Blocks	75
(b) Community Development Blocks	143
(by conversion from NES)	
NES Blocks	505

Shri Assar: May I know the total amount spent so far on these blocks?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am sorry I do not have the figures I require notice

Shri Yajnik: May I know whether there is any provision in the budget of these blocks for advertising and popularising all the benefits of these community development blocks and NES blocks, for, in my own taluk where a community development block is in operation, I was told categorically that there was no provision in all the lakhs of rupees that were budgeted for, for sending out any posters or any hand-bills, or for otherwise popularising the scheme among the thousands of village people in that area?

Shri S. K. Dey: There is no provision in the budget for actual advertising of the programme, although there is provision for publicising the programme amongst the population covered by the programme. For this purpose, a considerable amount of literature and publicity material is produced by the Central Ministry through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The State Governments also produce material of the same character, and these are supplied copiously in all the projects.

Shri Assar: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the allegation that after the second general elections, community

development blocks and N.E.S. blocks are started only in those areas in which the Congress Party has come out successful?

Shri S. K. Dey: I have no such information, nor have I received any complaint from anyone. I usually receive a considerable amount of correspondence from various parts of the country.

Shri Yajnik: Will more effective steps be taken with a view to induce the local people to take interest in their community blocks, in view of the fact that very serious criticisms have been made and admitted to a certain extent also that the main purpose of the community blocks has not been fulfilled, because somehow it has failed to arouse the enthusiasm of the people and direct them into the channels into which they are expected to be moved?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am not in a position to accept the position that there has not been enthusiasm of the people generated for this programme. I admit that there has been very little participation from representatives of people in the programme. So far as the enthusiasm of the people is concerned, there is very little to be desired that I can expect in the project areas. But we shall make all the efforts possible to enlist further enthusiasm of the people as well as further participation by all representatives of the people at all levels, and steps are already being taken.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the lack of interest among the people for the community blocks, which the Minister has just now referred to, is due to the inefficiency of the officers or the inefficiency of the Department to co-ordinate the enthusiasm among the people? Is it due to the inefficiency of both, the officers of the Department and the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Are we extending this question from Bombay to the whole of India?

Shri Hem Barua: In the course of the discussion, it has come to that.

Mr. Speaker: It may come to that. But I shall stop it there.

Shri T. N. Singh: The Minister has questioned the capacity of the representatives of the people in participating in such things, in his answer to a supplementary question. He has made an allegation against Members of this House as well as the other legislatures. I think this is rather going too far. I seek your protection in this matter.

Shri S. K. Dey: I am very sorry I have been misunderstood

Shri Ranga: If he were to see the recorded version of the answer that has been given here, it will be found that it is difficult for us to understand what the Minister means to say.

Shri Hem Barua: What is the idea of putting the blame on the people, in order to cover up their own inefficiency?

Shri Yajnik: I very strongly object to this remark.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether the advisory committees in these N.E.S. areas and community development block areas do not include any person who really represents the people, but there are only Congress people?

Mr. Speaker: I was feeling a little that the reference to Members of Parliament or of legislatures was unnecessary in the reply. The only question was whether the masses felt enthusiasm and co-operated in this matter. The simple answer would have been, yes, it was so. Hon. Members either on the one side or the other should not cast reflections upon Members of this Parliament. After all, the Ministers are only the representatives of the Members. If the Members are useless, then, so far as the Ministers are concerned, I do not know what to say. Therefore, no reflection should be cast upon any Member. Members shall not be drawn in for any purpose. When I say that a particular man is dirty, is it not open to the other man to say, 'You are dirty'?

Shri S. K. Dey: I am very sorry. May I explain the point? I said, the project has failed to enlist the participation of representatives.

Shri Ranga: I suggest that those words should be expunged.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry the Minister is not making it in any way better, by saying that the projects are not working for the reason that the representatives of the people are not co-operating. They are co-operating here, and putting questions and so on. What more is necessary? They are eliciting information.

It is the duty of Government through its officers to enlist public sympathy and not ask me to go and work in the community project elsewhere. I am really surprised at this, that Government should be entirely dependent on Members of Parliament to go to the villages and devote their time to community development work, while Parliament is also sitting. What is it that the Minister says? I am afraid that remark was not necessary.

But, I think there is no need here to expunge anything. All that I can say is.....

Shri Hem Barua: That reference should be expunged.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. Sometimes, we are also indifferent. This is not the business only of the Ministers, but of the representatives also. Though it is regrettable that such an answer should have been given, I do not think it is necessary to expunge it from the records. Hereafter, all hon. Members will bear this in mind.

Shri Hem Barua: Those words cast aspersions on hon. Members.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister does not say, Members of this House. There are other legislators also.

Shri Supakar: That has become still worse. A reflection is sought to be cast on all the people's representatives.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Leave it alone

Shri S. K. Dey: I have no desire at all to give any offence to anyone, to any representative of the people. What I said was that we as a Government agency had failed to secure

Shri Tyagi: Why do you confess it?

Mr. Speaker. All right. We shall proceed to the next question

Shri Tyagi: I protest that Government have not failed

Detention of Goods at Sabarmati Railway Station

*1057. **Shri M. B. Thakore:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that all kinds of goods booked for up-country are detained for many days at Sabarmati Railway Station (Western Railways), and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to solve this problem?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan). (a) and (b) Detentions to goods booked to up-country for transshipment to Metre Gauge at Sabarmati are not excessive. Special efforts continue to be taken for reducing detentions to the minimum feasible

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the average time for which the goods lie down at Sabarmati?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: The average time taken for goods from the time of arrival to the time of despatch, that is, arrival by broad gauge and despatch by metre gauge, was 43 5 hours in April, 48 8 hours in May, and 46 1 hours in June. That, I can assure the Member, is not a very excessive time

Shri P. R. Patel. May I know why so much time is required to book goods from broad gauge to metre gauge?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: That much time is required. For, the broad gauge wagon comes, the goods have to be unloaded from the broad gauge, and then put into the metre gauge, re-booked, and then sent on. It all takes time

Mr. Speaker: Everybody knows this process of transshipment from the one to the other. What the hon Member wants to know is why so much time is taken. Of course, these are the processes which everybody knows

Shri Tyagi: Go-slow-policy

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know why more time than is necessary is being taken

Shri Shahnawas Khan: May I submit that during the year 1956, the average time taken in the month of April was 75 6 hours? In 1957, it has been brought down to 43. We are not content with it. We will make every effort to reduce this time

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the distance between the broad gauge line and the metre gauge line, and why so much time is required to book from one to the other?

Mr. Speaker. How can we decide that matter here?

Shri M. B. Thakore. May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by Government for such delay?

Mr. Speaker. The hon Minister has said that they have reduced it from 75 hours to 43 hours and efforts are being made to reduce it further. Unless an hon Member is able to say either by his own experience or on the basis of the experience of a committee or report, that he has removed one wagon from one place to the other in only 24 hours and therefore, why are Government taking 43 hours, we cannot decide it here. These are only guesses on one side or the other

Shri Yajnik: Are there any mechanical cranes or other appliances employed for transshipping goods from the one place to the other?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: We have plenty of manpower available and our policy is to utilise it.