

LOK SABHA

Monday, 26th August, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Canal Water Dues from Pakistan

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*1157. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 52 on the 15th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have since received any communication from the Pakistan Government regarding the payment of Canal Water dues; and

(b) if not, the action taken by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No reply has yet been received from the Government of Pakistan in regard to the payment of 'disputed' charges.

As regards 'undisputed' charges, these have been paid, almost in full, upto the quarter ending June, 1957.

(b) The matter is under correspondence with the Government of Pakistan.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the amount that the Government of Pakistan owe to us, so far as disputed charges are concerned, and also the items included in these disputed charges?

Shri Hathi: From 15th August, 1957, upto 30th June, 1950 the total sum due towards undisputed amount was Rs. 91.75 lakhs. The sum deposited was Rs. 89 lakhs. The disputed amount was Rs. 29 lakhs. They deposited all the Rs. 29 lakhs. After 1950, the amount due is Rs. 85 lakhs for disputed charges. After 1950, they have not paid that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the reasons given by the Pakistan Government for not paying these charges which our Government describe as disputed charges?

Shri Hathi: The main reason, as they say, is the difference in the rate of calculation of the rate of interest on capital works, either at 4 per cent or at 2 per cent. There are many other excuses, of course, which they put forward.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that the Government of Pakistan are disputing the payment of water rates, may I know whether the Government of India will stop the supply of water on that ground of dispute?

Shri Hathi: So far as the undisputed items are concerned, they are not disputing; they are paying. But so far as the disputed amount is concerned, the interest charged is at 4 per cent on the capital works at four times the value; they say it should be 4 per cent on the capital works at the priceable value. That is the difference; that has to be settled.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to the latest statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan that he will lay down his life on

the question of the canal water dispute?

Shri Hathi: There was some paper report.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether in the previous settlement of the disputed amount, the position regarding this 4 per cent interest was accepted or not? What was the basis of that settlement?

Shri Hathi: There was no settlement. There are two items. One was the undisputed item, on which they agreed. The other was by itself a disputed item.

Shri T. N. Singh: Before the year 1951, the disputed items were also settled.

Shri Hathi: These are the two categories.

Agriculturist Tour Programme

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*1158. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Assar:
Shri Balakrishnan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated a programme under which peasants and agriculturists would be able to tour the country as well as other agricultural countries in the World;

(b) if so, the precise nature of such a scheme and programme;

(c) when the scheme will be put into operation; and

(d) what are the financial aspects of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) The detainees under which peasants and Agriculturists would be able to visit other parts of India only are being worked out.

(b) The Scheme is intended to develop interchange of ideas and agricultural practices.

(c) As soon as the details have been finalised.

(d) No expenditure will be incurred by the Government. The cost is to be borne by the participants.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know by what time the scheme will be ready and put into operation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The scheme is almost ready, but it has to be given a final touch. But as a pilot project, we have already decided to select six farmers from Andhra Pradesh and Madras and send them to Bombay and Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the organisations of agriculturists and peasants have been consulted or their opinions have been invited in this regard?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In fact, this was discussed by the Farmers' Forum, and initiated by them, and Government accepted that principle.

Shri Yajnik: May I know the standards on the basis of which the selection of these peasants is made for foreign trips as well as for the other tours? Are the persons selected only from the Farmers' Forum or are there other people also who are interested in agriculture?

Shri Ranga: Other peasants' organisations.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This question refers to the farmers touring inside the country. But the hon. Member is asking a question about farmers being sent out of the country. The selection is made under the Ford Foundation. The selection is made by a selection committee of the States. They send a panel of names to the Centre, and at the Centre, a committee is constituted, and that committee selects the persons.