

Rephrasing of State Plans

*22. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued to the State Governments recently to reshape and rephrase their plans in such a way so as to reduce the need of foreign exchange in the third year of the Plan;

(b) whether any indications have been given about the nature of the schemes that are likely to be affected under these instructions; and

(c) if so, what they are?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (**Shri L. N. Mishra**) (a) Instructions have recently been issued regarding the preparation of the Development Plan for 1958-59. In this connection, the Planning Commission has suggested that no scheme involving foreign exchange on which a substantial start has not already been made should be included in the Plan for 1958-59. Where a substantial start has already been made, State Governments have been requested to review the requirements of foreign exchange as strictly as possible with a view to reducing foreign exchange commitments to the minimum.

(b) and (c). The schemes likely to be affected by the instructions issued by the Planning Commission will be determined during discussions with States which are to commence early in December.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: While issuing these instructions, has the Government taken into consideration how this abandonment would ultimately affect the employment potentialities of the States?

Shri L. N. Mishra: This question is not included in the instructions issued to the State Governments but the employment implications of the adjustment in the Plan are being considered by the Planning Commission.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it possible to obtain and lay on the Table of the House the yearly targets fixed by the various States for the plans, year after year? Can we get those targets now?

Shri L. N. Mishra: For 1956-57 and 1957-58, we will try to put it on the Table of the House.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know if the Planning Commission has indicated what 'substantial start' would amount to?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is difficult to say. It means these projects are expected to be completed within a short time so that we may be able to earn from them shortly.. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No hon. Member can go on sitting and talking.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Delta irrigation scheme in Orissa and the Paradip port will be coming under the rephrasing of the Second Plan?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Discussion about the new schemes and their progress is to start in early December in the Planning Commission with the State Governments and the Central Ministries concerned. After that, we will be able to say about the specific projects.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Has the attention of the Ministry been drawn to the statement of Dr. Sampurnanand, Chief Minister of U. P., where he has stated that the U. P. Government might have to give up the Rihand Dam scheme because of shortage of money given by the Central Government and also shortage of foreign exchange. He has gone on to say that Rs. 12 lakhs had been allotted to UP for foreign exchange and that too has been given to a private firm.

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): All such important schemes which are meant for the development of certain regions would be considered by the Planning Commission in December and nothing can be certainly said at this moment.

Foreign exchange difficulties sometimes come in the way but the anxiety of the Planning Commission is to ensure the completion of such important schemes as far as possible.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is the Chief Minister's statement that Rs. 12 lakhs of foreign exchange has been allotted to UP and that too, to a private firm and not for the public sector, true or not?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I am afraid we will have to check it up before an answer could be furnished. We cannot say definitely whether we made statewide allocations in regard to foreign exchange. Allocations are made in regard to projects. I will have the matter checked up.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Has the Ministry's attention been drawn to it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid my attention has not been drawn to that.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: You were outside.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: For an equitable distribution of the available foreign exchange, has the Government considered a sort of a priority—state wise or project wise?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It will be considered projectwise primarily and not statewide.

Shrines in India and Pakistan

*23. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 on the 23rd July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether there has been any correspondence with the Pakistan Government about the convening of a meeting of the Joint Committee set up for the preparation of List of Hindu and Sikh religious shrines in West Pakistan and the protection of the properties attached thereto, and

preservation of their religious sanctity; and

(b) if so, with what effect?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Pakistan were invited to send their representatives for a meeting of the Joint Committee, at New Delhi, in the fourth week of October, 1957. No reply was received. The invitation has been renewed for a meeting in the fourth week of November, 1957.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: In view of the evasive attitude of the Pakistan Government, has the Government of India thought of any other way to meet the objective?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No.

Imported Consumer Goods

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*24. { **Shri Wodeyar:**
Shri Parulekar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the announcement of the new Import Policy, the prices of almost all imported items such as medicines, stationery etc. have shot up; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The prices of some of the imported commodities including medicines and stationery which had initially shown a tendency to rise are now by and large steady.

(b) The price trends of imported commodities are constantly kept under review to see that there is no abnormal increase in the prices of commodities due to short supplies. The price trends will also be taken into account at the time of formulating the import policy for the next half