

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the answer of the hon. Minister placed on the Table I find that the terms of reference of the high-level committee included the analyses of the various factors based on hydrological data. May I know the period for which systematically collected hydrological data was available to this Committee?

Shri S. K. Patil: I would require notice for that question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the construction programme of this project is going to be delayed in any way as a result of the investigation by this Committee?

Shri S. K. Patil: I don't think that the programme will be very much affected since we have already spent so much money on it.

Shri Jai Pal Singh: Is it a fact that since Kosi finds a strange bed very often, frequently, engineers are frightened to grapple with her properly?

Mr. Speaker: It is all figurative language.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र: अध्यक्ष महादय, दस वर्ष की जांच पड़ताल के बाद यह तय हुआ कि कोसी का काम चाल किया जाय और १०, १५ करोड़ रुपया बिहार सरकार या केन्द्रीय सरकार का उस पर खर्च हो चुका है। अब जो कमेटी बिठाई गई थी उसने यह खयाल जाहिर किया है कि हनुमाननगर का जो बांध बनाया जायगा तो वहा बालू आ जायेगी और वह सिल्ट भ्रप हो जायगा। १५ करोड़ रुपया खर्च हो जाने के बाद इस तरह की स्थिति को रक्खा गया है और यह बात बतलाई गई है तो मे जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार किसी भी प्राजेक्ट पर काम शुरू करने से पहले उसके बारे में पूरी तरह छान बीन क्यों नहीं करा लेती ताकि गरीबों के पैसे का जो इस तरह प्रपथय्य होता है वह न हो? मे जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या जवाब देना चाहती है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यह तो माननीय सदस्य सलाह दे रहे हैं। इसके बाद से वे ऐसा ही करेंगे।

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether it is a fact that an expert committee like the Central Water and Power Commission team on the Kosi Project have not agreed with the conclusions of this committee and they have submitted a separate note? If they have submitted a separate note, will that be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri S. K. Patil: The whole matter is under examination and I think it is not proper to lay on the Table only a part of it. That examination would be over very soon and the work will proceed.

Central Council of Local Self Government

Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 *283. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed in the Central Council of Local Self Government held in the month of September, 1957 at Srinagar;

(b) the nature of decisions taken and recommendations made; and

(c) the extent to which these decisions have been accepted by the State and Central Governments?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A copy of the Agenda for the Third Meeting of the Central Council of Local Self-Government held at Srinagar in September, 1957, together with the resolutions passed are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 10.]

(c) The Resolutions passed at the Meeting have been communicated to the State Governments for implementation. The resolutions which concern the Centre, are under consideration.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the various State Governments have given their opinions with regard to the recommendations made by this Conference?

Shri Karmarkar: The State Government representatives were there. We had full discussion. And one of the subjects which occupied great importance in that Conference was what was known as 'democratic decentralisation' and giving panchayats more powers. There was very useful discussion and all the State Governments expressed their views in that Conference.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: In view of the fact that such conferences have become an annual feature, I would like to know also whether the conference assesses whether the recommendations made by them are being enforced by the Central Government as well as the various State Governments.

Shri Karmarkar: We do not exercise any force in that matter. This annual conference is a very useful one. There all the State Governments express their views.

Mr. Speaker: That is not what he wants to know.

Shri Karmarkar: We do not use force on them.

Mr. Speaker: He does not want any force to be used. He wants to know how far the recommendations of the earlier conference are implemented and whether the conference tries to find out that.

Shri Karmarkar: That is the first item on the agenda of each conference.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that already two such council meetings have taken place, and in

this Conference, which was presided over by the Health Minister himself, he remarked that panchayats must take up more responsibilities and more finance should be made available to them for land reform and other matters, may I know whether at least after this Conference, where various resolutions have been passed, resolution No 2 regarding co-ordination of community development will be put into operation?

Shri Karmarkar: That is what I have just referred to. We have requested the State Governments to entrust greater responsibilities to the panchayats. We are looking forward to the State Governments implementing that resolution.

Shri Biren Roy: There was a model Municipal Act under which the various municipal associations in the different States will be brought under one authority. Was that draft taken into consideration?

Shri Karmarkar: My hon. friend's question contains at least three errors. The model Act which he referred to, is it the Health Act or the Municipal Act?

Shri Biren Roy: The Municipal Act.

Shri Karmarkar: That question came up before this Council. It was being considered. We were trying to do justice to that problem through the Committee appointed by the Central Council of Local Self-Government. But it was found that in view of the varying conditions, such a draft could not be made applicable to every part of the country. Further, in this matter each State is autonomous. Therefore, we have left it to the States to draft such Acts as they find necessary.

Shri Biren Roy: May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has replied that no such draft was prepared. The hon. Member is assuming that the draft was prepared over the head of the various State Governments without consulting them. The Minister says that it is not correct.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether the question of more finance to the panchayats was also considered and, if so, with what result?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, the advisability of making panchayats financially better was also considered. On that matter also there was a general consensus that not only must their finances be improved, but that they should be given greater responsibility in that matter.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know, Sir, whether the question of decentralisation has been considered by such conferences year after year? From the papers it is clear that the question of their reorganisation has not been decided so far. In view of the fact that in some of the States elections to local bodies have not taken place for a long time, may I know by what time the question of decentralisation of the district boards and local boards will be finalised?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? Hon. Members are aware that this is not a Central subject. The Health Minister convenes a Conference for the purpose of discussing various matters so that some of the wholesome provisions made here may be implemented. One of these provisions is decentralisation and giving responsibility to the panchayats. This House has no jurisdiction over the State Governments, to ask them or force them, to undertake elections immediately, or modify their Acts.

Shri Karmarkar: There is one part of the question which is relevant.

Now this question assumed importance in this particular session, because there was a committee appointed on behalf of the Community Development Administration under the Chairmanship of Shri Balwantray Mehta. They were thinking that in order to coax development further, the panchayats should be given greater responsibility. We went into this matter. They placed before

the House a view that group, or zonal panchayats, should be entrusted with all responsibility for development. Some Governments, the Madras Government, for instance, have gone ahead with that proposal. Now that committee is submitting its report and then it will be for the State Governments to implement it.

But as you have rightly observed, this is much a matter for the States.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : सरकार कहीं तो प्राक्सिज में लोकल बाडीज को हटा रही है और कहीं रख रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या निर्देश दिये हैं ?

श्री करमरकर : असल में हमारे सामने जो सूचना थी उस के अनुसार लोकल बोर्ड डेवलपमेंट के लिये बहुत बड़ी बाडीज होती है। इस लिये छोटी बाडीज बनाने की बात सोची जा रही है। सब से पहले विलेज पंचायत, उस के बाद ग्रुप पंचायत और उस के बाद डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोसिल। इस के बारे में सोच विचार हो रहा है।

Shri Tangamani: From the statement we find that even such a scheme as the Health Insurance Scheme (contained in Resolution No. 4) could not be implemented for lack of finances and the hon. Minister who presided stated that at least the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission should be accepted and implemented. May I know whether at least steps will be taken for implementing the Taxation Enquiry Commission's report?

Shri Karmarkar: Taxation Enquiry Commission? In regard to local finance, I would like to have notice.

Shri Tangamani: The Hon. Minister himself referred to that.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should know that the question has been sufficiently answered. The statement contains the agenda and the resolutions passed. If we were to take item after

item of the agenda and resolution after resolution, it will not be finished within one hour. Hon. Members should elicit information and not make suggestions as to what ought to be done. It is not a discussion that is being carried on.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जिन सरकारों का वहाँ प्रतिनिधित्व था, उन में से कितनों के यहाँ स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद अब तक स्थानीय संस्थाओं का चुनाव नहीं हुआ है, और क्या इन पर भी विचार किया गया कि वैसी राज्य सरकारों को सास आदेश दिया जाये कि वे जल्दी से जल्दी जिला और म्यूनिसिपल बोर्डों के चुनाव कराएं ?

श्री करमरकर : यह एजेन्डा पर नहीं था ।

I wish that the hon. Member understands the scope of this Conference. The scope of the conference was to pick out certain important subjects and not to go censoriously into the administration, as to where elections have taken place and where elections have not taken place. This is a constructive Conference.

Operational Efficiency in Railways

*284. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate any master scheme to operate in Second Five Year Plan to improve operational efficiency;

(b) the nature of the scheme and the total amount proposed to be spent thereon; and

(c) how far the scheme is expected to prove efficacious in the improvement of operational efficiency?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The improvement of operational efficiency of the Railways, with a view to achieving the fullest possible utilisation of the available line capacity and rolling stock, is receiving constant

attention. Statistics, measuring the operational efficiency, are scrutinised regularly and steps are taken to improve the performance wherever necessary. A number of measures which have been adopted for improving the wagon and engine usage are listed in the statement placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 11]. Government have no master scheme in view other than what has been mentioned above. An exact assessment of the expenditure on these measures cannot be made.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्टेटमेंट से मालूम होता है कि नये एंजिन सप्लाई किये जायेंगे । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे में इस के अनुसार कितने नये एंजिन अब तक दिये गये हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : इसके लिये भ्रमल सवाल होगा तो उस का भ्रमल जवाब मिलेगा ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्टेटमेंट में बताया गया है कि नये एंजिन दिये जायेंगे ।

Mr. Speaker: He may put a question.

The statement contains, for the purpose of full information, many things which have not been asked, or may be incidental to it. I am not going to allow detailed examination of a statement that is placed on the Table of the House. It is enough if a statement is placed: properly speaking, I ought not to allow supplementary questions at all, unless the statement is defective. We are going into too much of discussion with regard to these matters.

Shri Bimal Ghose: On a point of order, when a statement is placed on the Table, it is in lieu of an oral answer. Therefore, there should be supplementaries on the statement.

Mr. Speaker: It is not that there ought to be supplementaries. It is open to me to allow or not to allow. If I consider the statement full and complete, no supplementaries will be allowed.