

Machkund Project—1,294 sq. miles; Mula Project—1,208 sq. miles; Purna Project—860 sq. miles; Wardha and Godavari coalfield survey, 6,553 sq. miles and the Eastern Ghats Projects, 10,755 sq. miles.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the aerial survey and the ground survey have revealed identical finds?

Shri M. M. Das: That is always the case. Aerial survey is the modern technique of ground survey. The goal is the same. But, as I have said, in connection with the other question, the aerial survey does not completely eliminate the ground survey.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is whether the aerial survey and the ground survey have revealed identical finds.

Shri M. M. Das: They are complementary. They are not exactly the same thing, and the efforts are not doubled. At first the aerial survey is carried out and then again ground survey is carried out over the same place—it is not a fact.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the surveys which the hon. Minister has named were carried out in execution or in furtherance of certain projects and, if so, what are those projects and to which States are they confined?

Shri M. M. Das: So far as the Ramapadasagar project is concerned, it is understood now that the project has been dropped. I think the Upper Sileru and Lower Machkund Project is in the Plan. Photography and survey have been completed. About the Lower Sileru Project, photography was completed by air survey during the year 1956-57 and the other projects, Machkund Project, Mula Project and Purna Project are in the Plan, I think.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the amount so far spent on them?

Shri M. M. Das: The Survey of India has to pay to the two air survey organisations the following amounts: Indian Air Force, Rs. 5,13,000 and

Messrs. Air Survey Company of India (Private) Ltd., Dum Dum, Calcutta, Rs. 4 lakhs.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Who is to bear the expenses? The Andhra State and the other States or the Centre?

Shri M. M. Das: So far as the Ramapadasagar Project, the Upper Sileru and Lower Machkund Project, the Lower Sileru Project, and the Machkund Project, are concerned, the cost will be borne by the Andhra Pradesh Government. So far as the Mula Project and the Purna Project are concerned, the cost will be borne by the Bombay Government. For the Wardha and Godavari Coalfield survey, the cost will be borne by the Survey of India itself. For the Eastern Ghats Projects, the cost will be borne by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the Geological Survey of India.

Prices of Sugar, Tobacco and Textiles

*518. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of additional excise duty on tobacco, sugar and textiles their prices have gone up; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down the prices?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) While the prices of unmanufactured tobacco and textiles have generally remained steady, the prices of certain brands of cigarettes and cigars, and of sugar are reported to have increased slightly in some places.

(b) No action is called for at present.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether the additional excise duty in the place of sales-tax has improved the marketing system and brought confidence in the market as well as reduced the work and expenditure to the State Governments, and may I know whether the Government are considering the imposition of an additional excise duty in the place of sales-tax on other commodities also?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: The answer to the first part is, it is generally true. But, as for the suggestion following from the first, that suggestion has to be considered.

Shri Ramasathan Chettiar: What is the total additional excise duty derived from these three commodities last year?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): All these figures, I hope to supply to the House in full measured charts in two days' time.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know if the Government are aware that in Uttar Pradesh, in certain districts, owing to the high excise duty on tobacco, the tobacco has been burnt?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Enormous smokers burn tobacco!

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The burning of tobacco in smoking, as the hon. Prime Minister referred to, is a very normal process. The burning referred to by Shri C. D. Pande is in respect of the destruction of tobacco, because they cannot afford to pay a high excise duty and so they are destroying tobacco. Land is used for growing it and the tobacco is being destroyed. Is the Government thinking of doing anything about it?

Mr. Speaker: The Government are aware of it.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: That matter was referred in the last budget debate. Subsequently, it was raised in this House. We sent a team, particularly to Uttar Pradesh, and whatever was possible was done and relaxation in excise duty was given in some cases, but these are cases of inferior quality of tobacco which cannot be disposed of at any rate of duty, whatever it may be.

Shri C. D. Pande: There is a variety of tobacco which is called crush tobacco which is used for hooka tobacco. The other is taxed as cigarette tobacco.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Some of these anomalies have come up in the course of the change in the manner of duty we have to apply, because of the recommendation of the expert committee which was presided over by my hon. colleague. I think by and large this has given satisfaction. In some cases, maybe there was difficulty.

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that even when Government comes to know that because of these anomalies actual distress is caused to the growers of these different varieties of tobacco, Government are going to sit tight with their hands folded and they are not going to do anything at all to give relief?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. Not at all.

Shri Ranga: What does that mean?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I said no—you should not understand it that way.

Shri Ranga: What is it? My question arose out of the reply given. I am glad the hon. Prime Minister has given this reply. But what is it that the Government of India propose to do in order to give any kind of relief at all?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a large question. What my colleague said was these anomalies have risen in small patches. They should be examined of course. There is no question of allowing such things to remain as they are. If there is any grave difficulty that should be examined and attempt should be made to remove it.

Mr. Speaker: There was an expert committee also

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes.

Shri Tyagi: In the past, there used to be different rates of duty on hooka tobacco and cigarette tobacco. May I know if this difference still exists or whether it has been made uniform?

Shri B. B. Bhagat: It exists.