

would take about five years to complete the whole thing. Up till now we have spent about Rs. 30 lakhs, and from the beginning of next April we want to open the zoo for the public.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether the entire work will be completed during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It will take five years from today to complete the whole thing, but we expect that from next April the zoo will be ready for the visitors.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any Indians are being sent abroad for training in the art of looking after the zoo properly?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We got some experts from Germany and an expert in botanical garden from Japan, and we have trained our men from those experts whom we got from Germany and Japan.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the development of these 37 acres adjoining the Purana Quila for the Botanical Gardens forms part of the core of the Plan?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is part of the zoo—the Botanical Gardens to the extent of 37 acres. In this Botanical Garden a portion to the extent of 11 acres will be for a landscape garden of the Japanese type.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member wants to know whether this is a part of the core of the Plan.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is a part of the Plan.

Mr. Speaker: The core has yet to develop in a tree.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We have presented many baby elephants to other countries. May I know whether we have got some animals from any of those countries?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes; we have already got a number of animals. There are nearly 400 animals, and

some of them were presented to the Prime Minister and also our President. For the information of the hon. Members I would like to say that there is already an elephant which will not only dance, but dance to the tune of music.

Shri Goray: That is not from any foreign country; that is from here.

Shrimati Renn Chakravarty: We have one of the finest zoological gardens in Calcutta, which has been there for very many years. May I know what was the exact necessity for us to send abroad our people to be trained under experts?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We got the experts from Germany and Japan; we did not send any Indian expert to be trained from outside. We have very many zoos in India, out of which Calcutta is also one. But this will be the biggest in Asia, and we want to see that all that deserves a place in a zoo will be in that zoo.

Gandak Project

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*950. { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Shivananjappa:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1162 dated the 11th March, 1958, and state the further progress made regarding Gandak Project?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hatthi): The Central Water and Power Commission have examined the Project Report and sent their preliminary technical comments to the Government of Bihar. The negotiations with the Government of Nepal are still going on.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether any decision has been taken about the selection of the site?

Shri Hathl: Yes; the decision about the barrage has already been taken. It would be across the Gandak river at about a thousand feet below the existing canal.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know if the Government of Nepal have asked for a provision in the agreement for a larger number of miles of canals in their territory and if so, the expenditure likely to be increased by this?

Shri Hathl: The negotiations are going on between the Government of Nepal and the Government of India. About the technical aspects and the benefits which India would derive, certain points have cropped up, but it would not be desirable at this stage to tell all that has transpired or is transpiring between the two Governments. We are in the stage of negotiation.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this Gandak project work will start during the Second Plan?

Shri Hathl: The intention is to start it in the Second Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 5 crores has also been made for that project.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if it is a fact that a group of Nepalese engineers has left for the barrage site according to the decisions arrived at the conference held towards the end of July between the representatives of the two Governments—Nepal Government and Government of India—and if so, have they submitted any report on the basis of which the agreement is to be signed?

Shri Hathl: A team of engineers from India did go to Nepal to discuss certain technical matters. The report and the discussions that took place were submitted to the Ministry. The Nepal Government are also thinking of sending a commission to the site. We are awaiting that now.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether it is a fact that the agreement which is to be concluded is being delayed on account of the King going on foreign tour?

An Hon. Member: He has returned.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether that agreement is now being expedited?

Shri Hathl: As I said, we are in the stage of negotiation. We on our part are trying to expedite the conclusion of the agreement as soon as possible.

Policy of Decentralization of Railway Board

*951. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board have taken any further steps during the year to give effect to its policy of decentralisation at all levels; and

(b) what is the nature of the steps taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to delegation of powers.

Increased powers were delegated to General Managers in 1954 and again in 1957. The scope for further delegation is thus limited, but further powers are delegated to General Managers whenever it is found necessary to do so.

(b) During 1958, railway administrations were granted additional powers in some cases, particularly in respect of purchase of stores up to Rs. 25,000 in each case without going through Director General, Supply & Disposals. (The previous limit was Rs. 10,000 in each case).

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I draw the hon. Deputy Minister's attention to my question. I asked about decentralisation at all levels and not only at the General Manager's level, because the work is executed by the subordinates to the General