

Hirakud Dam Project

*1657. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1132 on the 10th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the retrenched staff of the Hirakud Dam Project will be absorbed in the Dandakaranya Project;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Efforts are being made to have as many of the surplus staff of the Hirakud Dam Project absorbed on the Dandakaranya Project as possible;

(b) The Dandakaranya Scheme is still in the planning stage and it cannot be said just yet as to how many retrenched persons of the Hirakud Dam Project will be absorbed there;

(c) The particulars of the concerned categories of the staff of the Project have been furnished to the Dandakaranya Project.

Shri Sanganna: What is the strength of the retrenched staff in the Hirakud project under various categories?

Shri Hathi: The Central staff are only up to the Assistant Engineers. The figures I have not got with me here.

Shri Supakar: Out of the staff retrenched, may I know what percentage has been absorbed in other services, either State or Central?

Shri Hathi: If the hon. Member wants to have the figures of the regular staff, the number of posts sanctioned on 31.8.1958 is 1,311 as against 1,598 before—i.e. 237 to be retrenched. Out of that we have sent a list of all the categories of staff to the Dandakaranya scheme. They will be retrenched from this month only.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether in the month of August more

than 420 persons were retrenched from Hirakud project, and how many of them belong to Orissa itself?

Shri Hathi: Of the retrenched staff, so far as work-charged people are concerned, their number is still more. Up till now, from 1956 to 1958, the total work-charged personnel retrenched is 6,170. Out of that 825 remain to be absorbed. All others have been absorbed.

Shri Hem Barua: In case, as the hon. Deputy Minister said, it would not be possible for the Dandakaranya scheme to absorb the entire retrenched staff of Hirakud, may I know what steps Government contemplate for the employment of the surplus staff retrenched?

Shri Hathi: There are two categories of these retrenched personnel. One is the work-charged people, skilled and unskilled; the other is the regular staff. So far as the retrenched work-charged people are concerned, I have given the figures. About 800 yet remain to be absorbed. For that purpose we have opened a special employment exchange there. We are in direct negotiation with the Chambal and Nagarjunasagar projects. They have taken up some staff; and even others like the railway department are being approached. About 500 people have been interviewed, and I hope about 150 will be taken up out of this 825. So far as the regular staff is concerned, the surplus staff which has been there from the Government of India will revert; some will be absorbed by Orissa and for others we shall find employment elsewhere.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the retrenched staff have been paid due retrenchment compensation, and if so, what is the amount of compensation paid to them?

Shri Hathi: Those of the staff who are on a work-charged basis are given one month's notice prior to retrenchment, that is one month's salary, and in addition to that, at the time of retrenchment they are given compensation which shall be equivalent to 18

days average pay for every completed year of service.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Has the Government assessed what kind of skilled and semi-skilled personnel will be required for the Dandakaranya scheme, and if so, what would be their requirements?

Shri Hathi: That information would not be with us, but we have given the different categories of people which are surplus or which would be surplus with the project authorities.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Considering the fact that the Rehabilitation Ministry has always said that the Dandakaranya scheme will be manned mainly by refugees, may I know why the Hirakud people should have preference there? Secondly, I would also like to know . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There ought not to be any "secondly" during the Question Hour. Only one question at a time.

Shri Hathi: What this project authority is concerned with is to give the list of the surplus personnel, and so far as is necessary or they can absorb, the Ministry may absorb. If they want to give priority to the displaced persons, they can do it, but if they do not find sufficient people, well, we will give the list and for those who may not be absorbed, we will find jobs somewhere else.

Shri Tangamani: What is the present strength of those working for the completion of the Hirakud dam—the work-charged and the other staff?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are so many voices even during the Question Hour when everybody should be all attention. So many subjects are being discussed.

An Hon. Member: Ministerial voices.

Shri Hathi: 780 skilled still to be absorbed and 45 unskilled to be absorbed.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: In spite of being told that the retrenched people are going to have priority, may I know why Government, while retrenching the staff, yet advertises for fresh staff in the same projects?

Shri Hathi: I do not think in the Hirakud they have advertised for those categories of people who are going to be retrenched.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Banerjee:

Shri Tangamani: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then we will find another opportunity to get that answer. I have called Shri Banerjee:

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since we are completing certain projects where retrenchment is inevitable, and also starting certain new projects, may I know whether the Government consider a common pool or a central pool of all those employed in these various dams for absorption?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A suggestion to be considered. Shri Tangamani may have his answer if he can get it.

Shri Tangamani: What is the present strength of workers, work-charged and also other staff, at present working at Hirakud after the retrenchment of 6,000-odd workers?

Shri Hathi: I want notice.

Sugar Delegation

*1658. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to send an Indian delegation abroad to explore possibilities of exporting sugar to continental countries;

(b) if so, the composition of the delegation; and

(c) the countries which it is likely to visit?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No, there is at present no intention to send a