

(b) whether the Orissa Government have made representations to the centre to increase the ceiling limit for power projects in the remaining years of the Second Plan period, and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir

(b) Although there has been no specific request from the Government of Orissa for increasing the ceiling limit for power projects in the Second Plan, they have proposed the installation of a thermal station either at Jharsaguda or at Talcher to meet the growing demands for power which the State Government anticipated

(c) These proposals have not been accepted so far because of paucity of foreign exchange

Work on Najafgarh Nallah, Delhi

*1351 { Shri Radha Raman
Shri Vajpayee

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether the work of Najafgarh Nallah is progressing satisfactorily to ensure its completion before the monsoon as planned

(b) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sewak Samaj is doing the earth work and that it had obtained the help of the Army personnel for expediting the work of the Nallah,

(c) what arrangements for co-ordination of work exist between the Bharat Sewak Samaj, Delhi Administration and Army authorities, and

(d) the difference between the estimated cost and the actual expenditure on the work?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The work of desilting and removal of humps in the Najafgarh Drain in a reach of about 12 miles has almost been completed

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The work was awarded to the Bharat Sewak Samaj by the Central Public Works Department on a contract basis. The Samaj obtained some assistance from the army authorities. The question of making any special arrangement for co-ordination of the work of the Samaj and the army personnel did not arise. The progress of execution of the work by the Bharat Sewak was, however, reviewed periodically at meetings convened by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

(d) The work has not yet been completed. The difference between the estimated cost and the actual expenditure will be known only after the work is completed and the accounts are closed.

Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac

*1352 **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Greenwich Mean Time has been replaced by a new standard of measurement known as Ephemeris Time and is being introduced in the Indian Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac for the year 1960, and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohinddin): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has adopted the Ephemeris Time in the Indian Ephemeris from 1960 onwards in pursuance of the resolution passed by the International Astronomical Union in 1955 to adopt the Ephemeris Time in all national ephemerides, in order to have uniformity with other nations in indicating the position of the planets in the Ephemeris. A statement is laid on the table giving technical reasons.

STATEMENT

The Greenwich Mean Time, lately called Universal Time, had so long been the basic measure of time in terms of which the positions of the

Sun, Moon and planets were calculated and shown in the Ephemeris. It has been observed for some years past that the rotation of the Earth, by which the Universal Time and in fact all mean solar times are determined, is not uniform, it has got a gradual retardation as well as fluctuations for various reasons, as a result of which the Universal Time does not increase uniformly. As a uniformly increasing time-scale is the independent argument necessary in dynamical astronomy, it has been decided in accordance with a resolution of the International Astronomical Union held at Dublin in 1955 that the positions of the sun, moon and planets would be given in all the national ephemerides with effect from the issue of 1960, not in terms of the Universal Time but of Ephemeris Time defined by resolution of 1952 meeting of the International Astronomical Union. This has been done in all the national ephemerides from the 1960 issue, and India have also adopted the same. Due to the existence of the fluctuation factor in the rotation of the Earth and consequently in the expression of Ephemeris Time, it is not possible to give a definite value of Ephemeris Time in Advance, it is possible only to estimate an approximate value by extrapolation. The difference between the Ephemeris Time and the Greenwich Mean Time is now very small, the estimated value of the difference for 1960 is 35.0 seconds of time, so that at Oh-Om-Os G.M.T the Ephemeris Time is Oh-Om-35s.

Mayurakshi Project Canal

*1352-A Shri Subiman Ghose: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of West Bengal have asked for financial assistance for extension of Mayurakshi Project Canal,

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of India first promised Rupees 30 lakhs and then refused to pay the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government of West Bengal could not avail of the said amount for shortage of time; and

(d) the reasons for refusing financial assistance now?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (d). A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

An additional provision of Rs. 3 crores was made by the Government of India for loan assistance to States for certain medium irrigation schemes, including a sum of Rs 30 lakhs for the construction of additional distributaries of Mayurakshi Project under the 'Miscellaneous Development Fund'. This was over and above the loan amount allocated to the States during 1958-59. In November, 1958, the Government of West Bengal reported that as the working Season had already advanced, not more than Rs 15 lakhs could be spent by March, 1959 and that the balance of Rs 15 lakhs would be spent by them by June, 1959. Immediately after this, the Planning Commission informed the State Government that the amount of Rs 15 lakhs proposed to be spent by them during 1959-60 would not be available during that year, and that the provision required for that year could be made by them in the Annual Plan for 1959-60 in the usual manner. Subsequently, the amount of Rs 15 lakhs proposed to be spent during 1958-59 was also surrendered by the State Government.

Black Market in Postal Articles

*1353 Shrimati Masida Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Statesman (Calcutta Edition)" dated the 30th July, 1959 that black-marketing in postal articles such as postcards,