

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether, among the 14 scheduled banks mentioned in the hon. Finance Minister's speech yesterday, any banks from South India are included?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not been keeping in touch with these negotiations to such a precise degree. I should await the report from the Reserve Bank which is in a position to answer a question of this nature.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the amount of US aid that is proposed to be availed of for this Corporation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Rs. 26 crores.

Municipal Board in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*68. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 389 on the 26th November, 1956 and state the progress made to implement the decision regarding the formation of a Municipal Board in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Municipal Boards) Regulation, 1957 (No. 1 of 1957) was published in the Government of India Gazette on the 11th March, 1957 after obtaining President's assent. It is being published now in the Andamans Gazette for general information, and will come into force on the 1st June, 1957. Decision has also been taken by the Andamans Administration to constitute a Municipal Board at Port Blair from the 15th August, 1957. Meanwhile, steps are being taken by them to finalize administrative arrangements such as framing of rules, delimitation of Municipal wards and preparation of electoral rolls, etc.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if only one Municipal Board will be established at Port Blair or will there be a network of local self-governing institutions all over, of various grades, as obtains in our country?

Shri Datar: The area populated is very small. All the same, after observing the experiment of the Municipal Board at Port Blair, Government will consider the question of establishing them at Maya Bandar and at another place in the Nicobar Islands.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the result of the experiment of local self-government which has been so pronounced in India will not help us in coming to a conclusion and will these local self-governing institutions be placed outside the scope of the experiment on this Island?

Shri Datar: I have not been able to follow the latter part of the question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should put a question and not make a suggestion.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Local self-government in India has been a success and has been in existence for a long time. Will not this successful experiment make us bold to think that we should try them straightaway and not wait for any experiment?

Shri Datar: I have already answered this question. Port Blair is the area mostly populated, nearly 20,000; and, in other places the population is extremely small and, therefore, Government are further considering this question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the population that is intended to be included in the proposed Municipal Board and whether any demarcation of the area for the Municipal Board has been made?

Shri Datar: The town of Port Blair and a number of villages roundabout it are to constitute the area of this Municipal Board.

Shri Dasappa: May we know whether it is going to be purely non-official in character and whether the franchise will be adult franchise?

Shri Datar: It will be on the basis of adult franchise and there would be nominated and elected members.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Dasappa: May I know the proportion of.....

Shri Datar: That has been made clear in the reply....

Mr. Speaker: I have already called the next question.

Neiveli Lignite Project

*69. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 52 on the 22nd March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether all the machinery for extracting lignite at Neiveli has arrived; and

(b) if so, whether the extraction has commenced during this month as was stated in the previous reply?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Practically, all the conventional items of earth moving machinery ordered have arrived at the site. The first unit of the specialised mining machines will be shipped early in 1958 and the last unit, late in 1959.

(b) Earth moving operations in the first mine cut will be inaugurated on the 20th May, 1957 with the conventional machinery. Actual extraction of lignite is expected to start by the middle of 1960.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: May I know what is the time schedule for starting the thermal station and the fertilizer plant and the briquetting plant?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? The hon. Member might have added that question also.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: The question deals with the lignite project and it is difficult to separate.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The lignite seam in the first cut is expected to be exposed early in 1960 and by the middle of that year the quantity required for the first unit of the

thermal power station will be mined; and the full production of the mine will be reached by the end of 1960.

So far as the thermal station is concerned, the first unit is expected to be commissioned by the middle of 1960 and the remaining unit or units by the end of that year.

So far as the fertiliser plant is concerned, the erection of the plant is expected to be completed in all respects and production commenced by the middle of 1961.

Shri Tangamani: May I know if the lignite that is going to be extracted will be used for domestic purposes or industrial purposes? If it is going to be used for industrial purposes, may I know whether there is any proposal for utilising it for any steel plant which may come up in Salem?

Mr. Speaker: Any future steel plant.

Sardar Swaran Singh: The first use of the extracted lignite will be for the thermal power station and once electricity is generated it can be used both for domestic purposes as also for industrial purposes. There is a great demand for electric power in that area for small-scale industries, for agricultural purposes and for a number of other things. So far as the part relating to fertiliser is concerned, obviously, fertiliser will be for agricultural purposes. The briquettes will be used as fuel both for industrial and domestic purposes.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री मशौदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस स्कीम पर कितना रुपया खर्च करने का एस्टीमेट है ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the mining part of the project is concerned, the estimated cost is about Rs. 17 crores. With regard to the fertiliser and thermal power plants, firm figures are not available but the total expenditure is of the order of Rs. 50-60 crores.