

## ENQUIRY ABOUT HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

\*404. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a team of officers of the Government of India made an enquiry into the working of the Hirakud Project?

(b) What report has the Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, who enquired on the spot, submitted?

(c) Have the alleged and criticised financial and engineering irregularities on the River Valley Project been removed or not?

(d) Is it a fact that before this, a committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri G. M. McKelvic and if so, what report had he submitted?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (c). The hon. Member presumably refers to the enquiry that is being conducted by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry into certain alleged financial irregularities on the Project. This enquiry has not yet been completed. He has submitted an *ad interim* report on accounting procedure which is under examination by Government.

(d) The final report of the Departmental Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, of which Mr. McKelvic was a member has not yet been received by Government. The Committee submitted an *ad interim* report on accounting procedure and it is expected that a decision will be taken shortly on the modified form of accounts system to be introduced at Hirakud.

**श्री जांगड़े :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हीराकुड प्रोजेक्ट की ऐक्टिविटी को देखने के लिये हीराकुड कंट्रोल बोर्ड और हीराकुड डेवलपमेंट ऐडवाइजरी बोर्ड जो निमित्त हुई है, उसके क्या क्या कार्य अभी तक हुए हैं ?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is too wide, too vague and too general a question to put. Has he got any question on any specific issue?

**Shri Jangde:** In reply to my question asked in the last session, it was said that a Hirakud Control Board and a Hirakud Development Advisory Board have been constituted. Therefore, I am asking this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** But, the question is too vague.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** What are the specific points on which these enquiries are made now?

**Shri Hathi:** The enquiry by the McKelvic Committee was about the Accounts procedure. That was the specific point which the Committee went into.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** In view of the serious allegations made by the Estimates Committee about the Hirakud project, and the Bhakra-Nangal project, and also the speeches made in this House, does not the Government contemplate that non-official Members of Parliament should be associated in these enquiries?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know if the report of the Majumdar Committee is available and will be laid on the Table of the House?

**Shri Hathi:** That will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know if, under Article 151 of the Constitution, it is obligatory to consult and seek the sanction of the Auditor General before making changes in the form of accounting, and whether after this McKelvic Committee report, Government have considered that after getting the sanction of the Auditor General.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order; the hon. Member is asking for opinion on a legal matter. Next question.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** I have an important question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** May be; but I am calling the next question.

## PATENTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

\*406. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations made in the Final Report submitted by the Patents Enquiry Committee; and

(b) whether any action has been taken on the recommendations?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has been taken on the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Committee and the Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Act of 1950 was passed in April 1950.