

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 बांगड़े : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हीराकुड प्रोजेक्ट की ऐक्टिविटी को देखने के लिये हीराकुड कंट्रोल बोर्ड और हीराकुड डेवलपमेंट ऐडवाइसरी बोर्ड जो निर्मित 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.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that in the final report of the Committee it has been stated that while there are 10,000 foreign patents, there are only 700 Indian patents, do the Government contemplate taking any steps to break this foreign monopoly?

Mr. Speaker: I think he raised the question during the discussion on the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The point really seems to be that the hon. Member wants us to manufacture Indian patents and put them up, so that there may be parity between foreign and Indian patents.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not my intention. I wanted to know whether Government are taking any steps to break the monopoly of foreign patents here, because it is admitted that it is injurious to the local industries.

Shri Karmarkar: Our Bill which became law the other day is one of the methods of stopping foreign patents, and I remember the hon. Member opposed it.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has any administrative change been recommended by the Patents Enquiry Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: That is under consideration, and we have postponed the administrative change till after the amendment has been introduced in accordance with their recommendation.

HINDUSTAN TELEPHONE CABLE FACTORY

*407. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the total authorised and paid-up capitals invested in the Hindustan Telephone Cable Factory?

(b) How much of this is foreign-owned?

(c) What are the Government of India's interests in this, if any?

(d) What is the total production capacity of the plant and the actual production every year?

(e) Are there any foreign technicians working in the factory and if so, in which posts?

(f) How is the cable that is produced in the factory being used?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The authorised capital of Hindustan Cables Limited, is Rs. 3 crores. The exact amount of capital invested so far is not yet available. Expenditure booked upto the end of

September, 1952, however, amounts to Rs. 2,49,032.

(b) Nil.

(c) The entire capital of the Factory will be owned by the Government of India.

(d) The production capacity of the Factory will be 469 mile length of cable per annum. Production is expected to start about the third quarter of 1953.

(e) No. The technicians of the technical advisers, Messrs. Standard Telephone Cables, of the U.K. are however on the spot supervising the erection of buildings and machinery.

(f) As I have said in reply to part (d), production is expected to commence only about the third quarter of 1953. It is expected that the Department of Posts and Telegraphs will absorb all the production.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know who are the Managing Director and the General Manager of this Factory, and what their qualifications, particularly with regard to experience of telephone cable manufacture, are?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is no Managing Director for the Company. The General Manager, however, is Mr. Mitter, and he has had, according to our information, considerable experience in this line.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has any Indian been sent abroad for training, to be absorbed in this factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Six young men have been sent abroad for training in the Standard Telephone and Cable Factory.

Shri B. S. Murthy: How many foreign technicians are now working in the factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The answer is already given.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Am I to understand that the General Manager has special experience of telephone cable manufacture?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, sir.

INK FACTORIES

*408. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether permission has been granted for the Parker Inc. Ltd. to start an ink factory in India?

(b) If so, where is it to be situated, when will it start production and what will be its total capacity of production?