

Shri Karmarkar: From exports to trade agreements! I am afraid, Sir, I require notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether imports by these countries have lessened due to the bad quality of our goods?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the over-all balance of trade in 1950-51 and 1951-52?

Shri Karmarkar: It is fairly satisfactory.

FLOOD DISCHARGE OF KOSI

*413. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state how the flood discharge of river Kosi in the year 1952 compares with the flood discharge of the same river during the last four years?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Peak discharge of the river Kosi in Chatra Gorge (at Barahakshetra) during the years 1948 to 1952 are as under:—

13-7-1948	4,78,442	Cusecs.
19-7-1949	3,75,717	"
20-8-1950	3,40,661	"
24-8-1951	2,56,284	"
24-9-1952.	3,10,000	"

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it a fact that some new areas of Darbhanga and Saharsa Districts of Bihar have been affected by this river?

Shri Hathi: Sir, the Survey of the area affected by flood in 1952 has not yet been complete. But, it is a fact that some areas have been affected.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether this river has taken an eastward swing again?

Shri Hathi: I am not aware of that.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

*414. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) at which stage the Community Development Projects of West Bengal stand at present;

(b) whether District Development Committees and Project Advisory Committees have been formed;

(c) whether social workers for the field work have been recruited and trained; and

(d) if so, how many?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) After the preliminary survey of the areas, work has commenced in eight development blocks allotted to West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Not yet.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what will be the status of the District Development Officer?

Shri Nanda: The District Development Officer is a District Development Officer.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any Deputy Development Commissioner has been appointed in West Bengal? If so, what will be his functions and also his status?

Shri Nanda: Sir, I have no information today with me as to whether a Deputy Development Commissioner has been appointed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the number of projects taken up in West Bengal and the number of villages covered thereby? Has any Centre been opened in North Bengal?

Shri Nanda: There are 8 development blocks and work has been started in all those 8 development blocks.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the hon. Minister aware that apart from the usual fanfare on the inauguration day, nothing material has been done to enthuse the people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the work in some of these projects is unsatisfactory because there is lack of trained personnel?

Shri Nanda: Sir, personnel for the work in the project is being trained and by the end of December the requisite personnel will begin to be made available.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, what is the agency for the recruitment of the workers and officers for these projects in West Bengal?

Shri Nanda: Recruitment has been made by a process of selection in the first instance. For that purpose, Selection Committees were appointed.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has the Bengal Government any say in it? Is the recruitment done by the Bengal Government?

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir, the recruitment is initially by the State Government, subject to confirmation later by the Central Government.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, what are the special techniques that are included in Community Projects?

Shri Nanda: A large variety.

Pandit L. K. Maltra: Is it a fact that for recruitment for these projects in the States the State Governments have not got much of a say and they have to take people sent out by the Centre?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the Union Public Service Commission has a say in the confirmation of the people already in service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think so far as the Community Projects are concerned, it is now a matter of public knowledge as to what the Projects are.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am given to understand that the Public Service Commission has invited applications.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, the officers of the local Government will be also associated with the projects. May I know whether any anomaly will arise due to orders given by the District Magistrate and the Development Officer?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir, I do not apprehend any such anomaly.

SALT LICENSING SYSTEM

*415. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Estimates Committee to abolish the licensing system of salt have been considered by Government?

(b) What is the opinion of the Departmental Committee appointed for examining the set-up of the Salt Organisation and the work of Government factories in the matter?

(c) How long will it take for Government to come to a final decision?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, but no decision has been taken yet on account of the contrary advice tendered by both the Salt Experts Committee and the Salt Advisory Committee.

(b) The question of continuance or abolition of the licensing system does

not form part of the terms of reference of the Departmental Committee.

(c) Government hope to come to a final decision shortly.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how many regions have as yet been visited by the Departmental Committee and what are the things that they have examined?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not in a position to give any detailed answer, Sir. But I presume that the Committee would have visited all the places before they gave their opinion.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the recommendation of the Estimates Committee about maintenance of the staff of Watch and Ward? What decision has been taken by the Government?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is altogether a different question, but from memory I can say that the Government have not seen their way to accept the recommendation to abolish the establishment referred to in the question.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether the Government propose to nationalise the salt industry in view of the fact that it is an essential industry?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir.

TRANQUEBAR SALT FACTORY

*416. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether salt produced in the Tranquebar Salt Factory is banned for release; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a prohibition?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) There is no general ban, but 44,000 maunds produced in 1952 was not released for sale due to poor quality.

(b) The minimum standard fixed for salt for human consumption in 1952 by the Government of India is 93 per cent. in sodium chloride content. The salt produced by the Tranquebar factory in 1952 has been found to have a sodium chloride content of 91.37 per cent. only, which is below the standard fixed.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether this particular quantity of salt was sent to the laboratory and