

that time I had in view only the application of the Minimum Wages Act. The Plantation Labour Act is yet to be planned, and I cannot speak in regard to an Act, the application of which is in the hands of my hon. colleague the Minister of Labour.

The hon. Member would also appreciate the fact that the Enquiry Committee did ask labour representatives to tender evidence before them, and I should say in this connection that the Government feels that their inquiry was conducted in a manner which was completely impartial without any bias in favour of either the one or the other interest, the sole objective being to find out some way of affording relief to the tea industry as a whole, which means the estate owner, labour and everybody else involved in the matter.

In regard to what could be done on the basis of the recommendation, it is a matter which, I think, is now engaging the attention of my hon. colleague the Minister of Labour. And the House perhaps knows that he proposes to have a tripartite conference some time in December in Calcutta, and we probably have to await what comes out of that conference.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what steps have been taken, since our withdrawal from the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board, to create a better market in foreign countries?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Our withdrawal from the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board does not put an end to any propaganda that was being done by the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board, because we are committed to pay them the contribution for the expenditure that they have budgeted until 31st March 1952 or that they have entered into contracts which go beyond that period. So there is no gap or lacuna which should be filled up immediately.

Mr. Speaker: I shall allow just one more question.

Shri B. K. Das: May I ask whether there has been any further decline in the demand in the foreign countries since our withdrawal?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid one cannot really relate this question of decline in demand with our withdrawal. And the hon. Member may be aware that the International Tea Marketing Expansion Board was spending a very little amount from its total funds in the U. K. market. One of the markets on which they had been spending the bulk of their budget, almost coter-

minous with the amount that we contributed to them was in America. I can assure the hon. Member that the propaganda in America, which they had undertaken is being continued and I do not think that we have suffered any loss because of our withdrawal from the Board.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There are so many hon. Members who are anxious to put questions. I have allowed 15 minutes for this question, and we have been carrying on with this one question for so long. There shall be no more supplementaries on this.

I am going over to the next item.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MAJOR ENGINEERING WORKS

*681. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether the question of associating Army and Marine Engineers with Civil Engineers in the construction of major engineering works under the Central Government has been examined by the Planning Commission?

(b) If so, do Government propose to place the relevant papers on the Table of the House?

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

(b) Does not arise.

UTILISATION OF INDIA'S MANPOWER

*682. **Shri U. C. Patnaik:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state whether the Planning Commission has examined the question of utilising the vast manpower of India for national service by mobilising training and reorganising them on a defence-cum-development basis?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The subject is under the consideration of the Planning Commission.

STOCK REGISTERS IN RIVER VALLEY PROJECT ORGANISATIONS

*694. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in its fifth report for 1951-52 under para. 135 has reported that stock registers of the various stores, plant and machinery on charge in the various project organisations specially in Hirakud, were not maintained;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter and if so, with what result;