

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) From enquiries I have made, I understand that 9 washermen with their families are living by the side of the Dhobi Ghat behind the Rakabganj Road. But they are neither entitled to accommodation in the servants quarters of the houses along the Rakabganj Road which they had previously occupied, nor were they evicted by Government. Presumably they were permitted to stay in the servants quarters attached to the houses by the Government servants who were allotted the houses, as they were working for them; and when there was a change in the occupants of the main houses, the new occupants did not allow them to continue in the servants quarters as they were not working for them, or did not find the accommodation in the servants quarters surplus to be given to them. The dhobis are not entitled to take these servants quarters on sub-lease from the allottees of the residences.

(b) Such a memorandum was received, but I did not give any such assurance as is suggested.

(c) The request contained in the memorandum were very carefully gone into, and a reply has been sent to the hon. Member that, much as Government would like to assist the washermen, they were unable to accede to their request. The desirability of providing washermen with suitable accommodation in New Delhi has, however, been brought to the notice of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

CONTRACTORS' CLAIM CASES AT HIRAKUD

***733. Dr. Natabar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claim cases in which the contractors entrusted with works at Hirakud have claimed amounts higher than that found due by the Chief Engineer and which have been referred to the arbitrator; and

(b) the cases which have resulted in award of amounts, higher than the amount found due by the Chief Engineer?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) There are no such claim cases.

(b) Does not arise.

SURVEY OF MAHANADI RIVER BED

***734. Dr. Natabar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the river bed of Mahanadi above the central axis line of the Hirakud Dam has been recently surveyed geologically; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Preliminary Geological Survey of the river bed of the Mahanadi above the Central axis line of the Hirakud Dam has been completed. Detailed Survey of the foundations of the Dam about its axis is in hand and will be completed by the end of this working season.

(b) The report will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

EXPORT OF COTTON YARN

***735. Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the ban on exports of yarn of certain counts made from Indian cotton;

(b) the circumstances under which export of cotton yarn made from Indian cotton and purchased from the stocks of the Bombay Government was permitted;

(c) the quantity involved in the exports referred to in part (b) above;

(d) whether the conditions of eligibility for getting export licences were observed in this transaction;

(e) the total stocks of such yarn available with Bombay Government;

(f) the reasons for the accumulation of yarn stocks with Bombay Government;

(g) whether this yarn was exported from the Port of Bombay; and

(h) whether the yarn held by the Government of Bombay could not have been diverted to other areas in India for consumption by handloom industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Export of yarn manufactured from Indian cotton of counts 16s and 20s has been banned with a view to conserve the entire production for handloom industry as these counts are more in demand than other counts.

(b), (d) and (h). The Bombay Government was buying the State's quota of yarn on Government account for better control and proper distribution to various consumers.