

pipes and steam fittings together with all the prime and auxiliary machinery, which constitute the remaining 40 per cent. or so, are imported mostly from the U.K.

(b) This matter is receiving Government's attention and it is hoped that it will be possible gradually to manufacture such items in the country. This is however a long-term problem which requires careful planning consistent with the resources, both financial and technical, of the country. It is not possible to say at this stage by what time we can become entirely self-sufficient.

Shri Altekar: May I know what is the value of the 40 per cent. parts that are imported from foreign countries and the value of the 60 per cent. manufactured in this country?

Shri K. C. Reddy: For each ship approximate cost of foreign materials imported from U.K. is about Rs. 20,50,000, of foreign materials purchased in India is Rs. 1,53,943 approximately and indigenous materials, Rs. 14,88,384.

Shri Altekar: May I know whether any raw materials have to be imported, like wood?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Some special type of timber is imported.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the value of timber imported yearly for this purpose and may I also know whether Government have taken steps to utilise Indian timber?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Government have taken steps to utilise local timber to the extent possible. As I was answering another supplementary question, some special kind of timber is required and it has to be imported. I cannot give you the overall figures of the cost of the timber that is imported but I can give the figures for each ship. For each ship of about 8,000 d.w.t. timber is imported as follows:

Oregon pine timber about Rs. 60,000 worth.

Burma teak timber about Rs. 90,000 worth.

Dr. Jaisoorya: I hope I am not mistaken, but I heard the words "auxiliary machinery". Are engines and boilers also manufactured in this country?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Engines and boilers are not manufactured at present.

Shri N. Sreekantam Nair: May I know whether there is any scheme to manufacture engines in India and if so, at what time?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The company has just received a report from the French Experts whom we have engaged, and after the report is carefully examined, the Government will consider the matter.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the marine engines for these ships are imported from some specialised firms, or generally it is left to the companies to purchase them from wherever they can.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Of course, it has to be presumed that they are imported from the specialists in the line and not from any and everyone.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is there any fixed or stable contract with certain specified foreign concerns in U.K.?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I cannot give the information at present.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister said that Burma teak is being imported for the manufacture of ships. May I know whether local teak is unsuitable for this purpose?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is obvious.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What is the basis on which Government consider that Burma teak timber is of a special variety, while the Indian, especially the Malabar teak timber is superior to that of Burma teak timber?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whose opinion is to prevail?

Shri P. T. Chacko: I want to know the basis.

HOUSING BOARD AND CENTRAL HOUSING FUND

*1182. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether Government are considering the question of setting up a Housing Board in the near future?

(b) Have they set apart any funds for the Central Housing Fund during 1953-54?

(c) If so, what is the amount?

(d) If not, when do Government propose to move in the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The question has been considered and at present there does not appear to be a necessity for a Central Housing Board.

(b) to (d). Subject to the financial condition of Government permitting, it is the intention to work up to the Planning Commission's programme in the matter of Housing. No Central Housing Fund as such has however been established, but for the current financial year a budget provision exists for Rs. 9.84 crores on housing.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know whether this Board is constituted under any Act or under executive authority?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have said that at present there does not appear to be any necessity for a Central Housing Board. Therefore the question whether its constitution is under a Central Act or a State Act does not arise.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: In what way the Central Housing Board will be different from the National Building Organisation?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Central Housing Board was contemplated to be in overall charge for executing the housing projects, and as at present advised, it is felt that the present arrangement of administering it by the Ministry is a better arrangement and costs less.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any Regional Boards have been constituted in various States and in this direction whether any scheme is drawn up to provide funds for these Boards?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Housing Boards do exist in a number of States and I know of four States in which these Housing Boards exist; the responsibility of executing the housing projects, where such Boards exist, is generally passed on by the State Governments to those Housing Boards; in other States it is the State Government who undertake the execution of those housing projects.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Government is aware that a non-official all-India Housing Society has been set up? If so, how is the Government going to help it?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Government is aware that such a Society has been set up and the Society has not yet formulated any definite plan and it is not yet clear to the Government as to the manner in which they can help that Central organisation.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether this amount will lapse if not utilised before the end of the current year or it can be carried over so that it can be utilised in the coming year?

Sardar Swaran Singh: In all probability it will be utilised during the current year and if any part is unspent, it will not lapse.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकता हूँ कि सेंट्रल हाउसिंग फंड को मुकर्रर करने के लिये सरकार विचार करेगी ?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is hardly necessary.

PROGRESS AT HIRAKUD

***1183. Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that progress at Hirakud has been considerably retarded and the results as such are quite below expectation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or are likely to take for making uniform progress at Hirakud?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir. The Progress at Hirakud achieved at the end of last working season is being maintained.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

With your permission, I may add a word that in order to ensure that the work is progressing satisfactorily, it has been arranged that after every working season, the target for the next working season will be fixed and divided into monthly periods so that it may be possible to judge and verify every month whether the work is progressing satisfactorily or not.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know when the main dam is expected to be completed?

Shri Hathi: 1955-56.