

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.

Shri L. J. Singh: When will the major portion of the canals in Sambalpur District be ready to receive the life-giving water?

Shri Hath: I think in 1955-56.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the work of re-settlement of those persons who would be displaced on account of the submergence of the reservoir area is not proceeding last enough, and if so, why?

Shri Hath: I will enquire into that matter.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the targets for earth and concrete work set by Dr. Savage in his report in 1948 have been maintained so far?

Shri Hath: I think they have been maintained. I am not sure about it.

Shri T. N. Singh: The Minister gave the impression that the progress made is according to the schedule at Hirakud. Is it correct to say that?

Shri Hath: Yes, Sir. What impression the hon. Member might have gathered, I do not know. But, what I have said is that the progress has been maintained as it was in the last season.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि मंचरी प्रोप्रेस रिपोर्ट गवर्नमेंट के पास आती है?

Shri Hath: As I said, the report does come; but that is to show how many cubic yards, etc., of work have been executed. In order to check this up actually, it has been decided that they should be defined by charts.

Shri Raghaviah: May I know whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the course of the construction of this dam is filled with improper maintenance of accounts, wastage of imported materials, and other irregularities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was answered at length.

Shri Raghaviah: This was not answered. My question relates particularly to this aspect: that the course of the construction of this dam was filled with all varieties of improper administration, like wastage of materials, improper maintenance of accounts, etc., as a result of which ..

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is not the time for discussion. On the discussion of the Hirakud Report the hon. Minister for Planning took an hour and went explaining item after item. This is not possible now.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it was programmed to construct the subsidiary dam in 1953 and to raise at least 40 feet of the main dam by 1953? Has that been done?

Shri Hath: That was as envisaged in 1947. Subsequently the programme was changed and I am saying from the revised programme of 1951.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the subsidiary dam and the unfinished bridge have been given up for good or whether they are going to be taken up in the near future?

Shri Hath: They are postponed for the time being.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know the amount of concrete that is being laid daily nowadays?

Shri Hath: I have no information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know from the Minister of Planning whether there was at all any planning to avoid the gross mismanagement by the officers as found in the report of the Public Accounts Committee?

Shri Hath: Will the hon. Member please repeat the question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether any steps are taken by the Government to avoid all the irregularities disclosed in the report of the Public Accounts Committee?

Shri Hath: Definitely; the report is being studied.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The report is being studied for the purpose of taking proper action. Next question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How long to study?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

COIR INDUSTRY

*1184. **Shri Achuthan:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how the slump position in the coir industry in Travancore-Cochin now stands?

(b) What are the steps taken by Government to ease the crisis in the industry?