

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact there is no strictness about this. Whenever the slightest evidence is produced of any kind, the local people are given discretion to accept that. But where they definitely suspect a person, then they will not take action, or will not issue the necessary documents.

MERGER OF FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

*1264. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state when Government formally proposed to the French Government to start negotiations on the subject of direct transfer of the remaining four French Settlements to India without a referendum?

(b) Has the French Government given any reply rejecting or accepting the proposal of the Government of India and if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) In October, 1952.

(b) The matter is still under correspondence between the two Governments.

Shri M. L. Agrawal: When can we expect a final decision to be taken in the matter?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is impossible to say, Sir, when the correspondence will come to an end.

PORTUGUESE SETTLEMENTS

*1267. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Portuguese acceded to the formal proposal of the Government of India to start negotiations on the subject of direct transfer of Goa, Daman, and Diu to India?

(b) Have the Portuguese Government responded to the several representations made to them by the Government of India regarding the various Legislative measures promulgated by them, which discriminate against Indians?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative, what further steps do the Government of India contemplate to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No formal reply has yet been received.

(b) Not so far.

(c) The Government of India will continue to do everything possible to settle the various questions at issue by means of peaceful negotiation in consonance with their declared policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIRAKUD DAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*1248. **Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the suggestions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Hirakud Dam Project, as embodied in their Report of March 1952, have been considered and accepted?

(b) Has their recommendation, that in providing a Canal System for the Puri District, the rivers Kuakhal, Kushabhadra and Bhargov should not be closed up at their sources as proposed in the Project Report, been accepted?

(c) Has the Hydrodynamic Research Station at Poona been asked to carry on investigations by means of model experiments in this connection as suggested by the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir, the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee were considered and mostly accepted in regard to Stage I of the Project, which is in hand, with the exception of some items like irrigation in the Mahanadi delta, transmission lines, etc., which are still under investigation. Final decision in the matter will be taken after the detailed investigations are completed.

(b) This is under investigation both in the field and in the model experiments under progress at Poona.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the fact that one of the terms of reference of this Committee was to report on the technical feasibility of the scheme and that the Committee has refused to comment on the technical feasibility?

Shri Hathi: They say that this is not the ideal site for the dam, etc.

Shri Meghnad Saha: They were asked to comment on the technical feasibility and they have refused to comment on that. Does it not show that the whole scheme is very unsound as was pointed out by Mr. Rangiah in 1947?

Shri Hathi: The report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the House; I do not think they have said it is not feasible.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it was on the recommendation of this Committee that the subsidiary dam site of the project was abandoned, or whether it was based on other considerations?

Shri Hathi: It was not solely on the recommendation of this Committee.

Shri Meghnad Saha: In view of the refusal of the Mazumdar Committee to comment either favourably or otherwise on the technical aspects of the scheme, do the Government propose to appoint another committee to report on the same matter, because it is a very serious affair.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is going into arguments. Shri Sarangadhar Das.

Some Hon. Members: Let the Minister answer the first part of the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot allow suggestions to be made, as if it were a resolution.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the Government have accepted the recommendations of that Committee as to the apportionment of the cost of the project for three different purposes, irrigation, power and navigation?

Shri Hathi: Generally they have been accepted, Sir.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Will Government be pleased to say whether before coming to any final decision they will ascertain popular opinion in the matter of closing certain rivers at their source?

Shri Hathi: That is a technical aspect.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the position regarding the phasing of the various aspects of the Hirakud project in the light of the recommendations made by this Committee, and have any further alterations become necessary due to the late submission of the report?

Shri Hathi: The stages as have been recommended are the main dam and the power house; units No. 1 and No. 2 in the power house and some of the electric transmission lines.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Are Government aware that the Government of Orissa have not yet accepted the recommendation as to the apportionment of the cost of the project for the various purposes?

Shri Hathi: I have no information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how long it will take the Hydrodynamic Research Station at Poona to complete the experiments on this model?

Shri Hathi: I cannot give an exact date; it might be a few months more.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How long does it generally take?

Shri Hathi: It all depends upon the experiments on the model.

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN FILMS ABROAD

*1249. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken for opening exhibition centres in foreign countries for the exhibition of Indian films since 1947?

(b) How many Indian films either in English or in Indian languages have been exhibited in foreign countries since 1947 and how long was each picture exhibited and in what countries?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) There are no exhibition centres as such but most of our missions abroad have been provided with projectors and a selection of Government produced short documentary films for non-commercial exhibition. A few library copies of full length films have also been obtained for occasional exhibition through our missions. Some of the missions are also supplied with monthly editions of news reels.

Since the export of commercial films is entirely unrestricted, the Government have no detailed information about their exhibition abroad.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House of the People in due course.

Shri Nanadas: Is the fact that very few of our films were exhibited in foreign countries, due to the unattractiveness of our films or the unhelpful attitude taken by the foreign Governments and the exhibitors?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Most of our films are in Indian languages. There is difficulty about the language and I think it is a deterrent to the exhibition of our films abroad.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know how many Indian films will be shown in the International Film Festival at Cannes which is going to be held this month?