

recruited by the United Kingdom for affording medical facilities to the Gurkha trainees in Malaya?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know about it; I have no information at all. There may be, possibly, recruitment individually—not for any particular purpose. For instance, doctors have been recruited for Burma and other places; people recruit them, and we put no bar in their way. But I am not aware of any person being recruited particularly for the Gurkhas there.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether the training arrangements at Barrackpore and also at Darjeeling have ceased to function, or whether they are still functioning?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I rather doubt if it has ceased to function. It is rather difficult to take unilateral action when the Nepal Government is also involved in it. We informed the Nepal Government two or more months ago, as well as the U. K. Government, that these centres will cease. It took about a month or so, or more, for replies to come. They agreed to its being done and then they agreed to have conversations between themselves. I cannot exactly say at what stage this matter is.

#### INDO-AMERICAN TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION

\*2. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions between the Government of India and the United States of America for the conclusion of the Indo-American Treaty of Commerce and Navigation are over; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the treaty on the Table of the House?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know since when the negotiations have been going on?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Negotiations have been going on for some time, but there has been no progress since October because that Government was busy with its Presidential election.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether any steps have been taken in these negotiations, to acquire more ships for Indian shipping, from the United States?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** It has nothing to do with the treaty. It is an independent proposition, if you want to acquire. It has nothing to do with proposals for a treaty for commerce, etc. between the two countries.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** What I wanted to know was whether in this treaty of commerce and navigation any effort had been made for acquiring from the U. S. A. more ships for Indian shipping and thus prevent the monopoly of foreign shipping in India's foreign trade?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Sir, what I am saying is, it is a very pertinent matter to be considered—how far we can do it having regard to our resources and the rest. But it has nothing to do with this treaty.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether Government have dropped the idea of this treaty?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir.

#### ESTIMATES OF HIRAKUD PROJECT

\*3. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates of the Hirakud Project have gone up,

(b) if so, by how much and for what reasons;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to scrutinise the reasons for the increase; and

(d) if so, what are the steps?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (d). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communique which issued on the 9th Feb. 1953, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 1]

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether it is a fact that a permanent residence on a lavish scale is being constructed for the Chief Engineer, whose original estimate was Rs. 58 thousand and present estimate exceeds Rs. 79 thousand?

**Shri Hathi:** I would require notice of the question.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Is it a fact that one contractor had been granted eight instalments of advance payment towards the Rs. 79 thousand in a period of four months and only Rs. 2 thousand has been recovered up-to-date?