

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?

Shri Hathi: I have no information on that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How could the estimates, as have been placed on the Table of the House, be balanced in view of these huge wastages?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of argument.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is a question of mathematical figures, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will ask questions and elicit facts.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: They have balanced the figures and they have said that complete balance is achieved. I want to know how they could have been balanced with these huge wastages.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not assume and make remarks. Hon. Members will elicit answers; they need not say it is wastage, and so on and so forth. The communique has been laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha: Is it true that construction of Power House No. 2 and the Lift Irrigation part of the project has been given up; if so, have the revised estimates allowed for reductions on these sections of the project?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha: Is it true that even then the revised estimates have gone up?

Shri Hathi: The estimate will remain as it is, at Rs. 89 crores. It won't exceed that.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the project estimate in the beginning was Rs. 47 crores and then it was raised by the Planning Commission to Rs. 67 crores? Is it the same now?

Shri Hathi: It is true that the original estimate was Rs. 47 crores. Subsequently the estimate was Rs. 89 crores; the first change was to Rs. 67 crores.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the latest is Rs. 89 crores?

Shri Hathi: The Committee that was appointed to review the estimate said that it may rise to Rs. 92 crores from Rs. 89 crores.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if these Rs. 89 crores include the delta irrigation part of the project also?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How much of the increase in the estimate was due to the so-called technical advice which we received?

Shri Hathi: It was not due to any technical advice. It was mainly due to the reasons as mentioned in the press communique. One of them was the extension of the scope of irrigation area from 1 million to 1.9 million acres, and the rise in the cost of labour and the prices.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What extent of this revised estimate is due to the rise in prices of the materials purchased?

Shri Hathi: I have not got the break-up.

ISSUE OF SUBSIDIZED RICE TO INDIANS IN CEYLON

*4. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new series of ration books issued in Ceylon have disqualified many Indians in Ceylon from receiving Government subsidized rice; and

(b) if so, what is the approximate number of such Indians who have been disqualified from receiving subsidized rice?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes. Persons of following categories have been excluded:

(1) Illicit immigrants,

(2) Temporary visitors to the Island on visas, and

(3) Persons entering Ceylon after 1-11-1949 holding a residence permit whose period of currency has expired.

(b) According to the information available, over 20,000 persons will become ineligible to receive subsidized rice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government has ascertained the number of Indians who had entered Ceylon before the passing of the immigration law in 1949 and who are disqualified from getting rice rations?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have not got the exact figure but it seems it will be anything ranging between 10,000 and 50,000. According to the