

Ministry, before being approved by the Orissa Government?

Shri Nanda: I have stated already that the Orissa Government has given its approval but the Control Board is going to look into the estimates minutely. After that, the Government of India will take notice of it.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if administrative sanction has been given by the appropriate Government of India authorities in this matter?

Shri Nanda: Originally the Government of India has given that.

Shri T. N. Singh: I want to know about the revised estimates.

Shri Nanda: For revised estimates I have given the facts. The Orissa Government has given the approval. The Control Board is looking into it and that will be done in the course of the next few days and immediately the Government of India will take up.

Shri T. N. Singh: Has the Minister consulted the Finance Ministry of the Central Government?

Shri Nanda: The Finance Ministry and all the Ministries concerned, originally have given their approval.

Mr. Speaker: The question is with reference to revised estimates.

Shri Nanda: About the question of the revised estimates, general approval has been given that the work should go on but the revised estimate has not received the approval of the Government of India for the reason that it has not yet reached the Government.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Who constitutes the Board?

Shri Nanda: The Chief Minister of Orissa and some officers.

COMMERCIAL CHARGES ON COAL

*1322. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have abolished or are contemplating to abolish the commercial charges on coal in order to facilitate the export of coal to foreign markets; and

(b) at what rate the surcharges work out per ton?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The commercial charges on coal export to Pakistan

have been abolished from the 25th March, 1953. The question of abolition as a general issue is separately under examination.

(b) The commercial charges vary from country to country. A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the additional charges per ton in respect of each country. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 12.]

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that we lose about a crore of rupees per year under this agreement?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Due to the abolition of commercial charges on coal export to Pakistan, it is true the revenue will be affected to the extent of about a crore of rupees.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that this agreement was entered into in the hope of having a long-term agreement on this subject?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not know about the period of the agreement. It is a question to be directed to my hon. friend, the Minister for Commerce and Industry.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What are the reasons for not following a uniform policy with regard to commercial charges? Why does it vary from country to country?

Shri K. C. Reddy: We have to take into consideration the amount of charge that the country could bear in the light of imports by those countries from other countries. We have also to take into consideration the competitive prices prevailing in those countries. We cannot have a uniform commercial charge for exports to all countries.

IMPORT DUTIES IN FIJI

*1324. **Shri C. B. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the answer given to the Starred Question No. 1058 asked on 28th March, 1953 and state:

(a) whether Government have any information as to whether Fiji has got import duties called "Standard" and "Preferential"; and

(b) whether we have our Trade Commissioner in Fiji?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The required information is being collected and will be placed before the House when available.

(b) There is no commercial representative in Fiji but our Commissioner in Fiji looks after our trade interests.