

(b) if so, what were their representations?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They represented that:

(1) arrangements should be made to give financial assistance to rubber growers by guaranteeing the bankers' advances that may be made against rubber, or alternatively Government should allow the export of 1,500 tons of rubber from India to relieve the accumulated stocks with producers.

(2) that Government should reconsider the amendments proposed to the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947, by the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Amendment Bill, 1952.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Do Government intend to take any measures to relieve their distress?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir. Government have taken various steps, the results of which would not yet be apparent. Government have asked the Governor of the Reserve Bank to see if he could help by asking the Scheduled Banks to allow credit facilities to people who hold stocks of rubber on their rubber stocks. I understand that an officer of the Reserve Bank has been sent down to survey the situation. Government have asked the Rubber Board to explore the possibilities of buying up small stocks with the rubber producers, so that the smaller holder who has not got banking facilities might be helped. The Rubber Board is now engaged in formulating proposals. In the meantime, Government have asked the manufacturers to increase their off-take of rubber.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government is in a position to mention the exact stocks of raw rubber now?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The stock position for the week ending the 7th March was 6,840 tons with the producers, dealers and in transit, and 2,112 tons with the manufacturers.

Shri V. P. Navar: May I know whether this deputation was led by a Member of Parliament and may I also know whether certain observations made by the hon. Minister of

Commerce and Industry were resented to by the deputation and whether they have taken up the matter before the Prime Minister, in appeal?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a fact that the deputation was led by a Member of Parliament. In regard to the latter part of the question, I have no information.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether this deputation was treated in a very contemptuous manner by the hon. Minister?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir. I do not think so.

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Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. It is unnecessary. It will only create bad blood.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN PUNJAB

***798. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allotted to the Punjab State for Community Projects; and

(b) whether the Punjab Government have suggested any new scheme in connection with the execution of Community Projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Rs. 216.71 lakhs.

(b) The procedure is that the State Government will prepare individual schemes in accordance with a programme for each project approved by the Central Committee.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know how much money has been allotted to other States in connection with the community projects? For instance, how does Punjab compare with U. P. and some other States?

Shri Hathi: Generally for each community project centre Rs. 65 lakhs are allotted.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: As you know, Sir, Punjab is a State in which a large number of refugees have settled down, should not the Government grant some preferential treatment to Punjab in the matter of community projects?

Shri Hathi: Generally, the question of grant or assistance from the Centre

depends upon the number of the project centres selected. If more centres are selected, naturally that area will get more money.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know if provision will be made for more community projects for Punjab in the next Budget?

Shri Hathi: The recommendations of the State Governments have been invited and decisions will be taken after the recommendations of all the State Governments have been received.

Shri Namdhari: Will Government consider sanctioning a community project for Sarsa Tehsil in Hissar District in order to rescue it from permanent famine?

Shri Hathi: I have to repeat the same reply that I gave to the previous question.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know whether community projects are going to be allotted to Kangra, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur, especially as Kangra, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur are backward areas?

Shri Hathi: As I said, the proposals of the State Governments are awaited.

An Hon. Member: But are these backward areas?

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether Members of Parliament will be consulted in the selection of the new community projects?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: On what basis are these places selected? Is it because they are very good so far as irrigation is concerned, or because they are backward?

Shri Hathi: Chiefly, they are selected on the recommendation of the State Governments and the State Governments have to take into consideration the nature of the area, its backwardness or otherwise, the irrigation possibilities, the other development possibilities and so on. It is for the State Governments to see.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it a fact that these particular areas have been selected because they are better irrigated and there are better prospects of raising crops there?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): In the selection of the projects last year, the predominant consideration was that

results should be obtained quickly and therefore those areas which had assured rainfall or sources of irrigation were preferred to others.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will it be adhered to?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether any instruction is issued to the State Government concerned to consult the Members of Parliament of the respective areas as far as the projects are concerned?

Shri Nanda: In a general way, there is consultation.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: What about the Members of the Opposition?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know if in the selection of community project centres in the future, the same consideration of rainfall will be given, or will the backwardness of the area also be taken into consideration?

Shri Nanda: It is possible now to include other considerations also in the selection that is going to be made hereafter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

*799. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the scheduled date for completion of the Bhakra-Nangal project;

(b) whether any material changes have been made in the original plan and execution of works; and

(c) when is the scheme likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (c). According to the present programme of construction the Project is expected to be completed in 1958-59.

(b) Certain changes in the design, specifications and scope of the Project have been made in the Revised Project Estimate.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know what these "certain changes" were?

Shri Hathi: There are a number of changes. I can read them if you like.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Why were these changes made?

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if these changes include any change in the generating part of the project, namely, the turbines, the pen-stops and the generating sets?