

Gazettes & Debates Section
Parliamentary Debates
Block 10
Acc. No. 25107
Date 2.11.2014

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 17th February, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock
[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

IRANIAN PRESS DELEGATION

*92. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the party of five Iranian Newspaper editors which has come to India was invited by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will necessary steps be taken by the Government to arrange adequate transmission of Indian news to Iran and vice versa for fostering Indo-Iranian relationship?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): That is a matter for the other side to take up if they are interested. We cannot thrust our people anywhere.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

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

(a) whether certain contractors of the Bhakra-Nangal works are alleged to have misappropriated Government funds;

(b) if so, how much money are they alleged to have embezzled and under what circumstances; and

(c) whether the Police have taken any steps in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

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(b) and (c). The amount involved is not known at present. The cases are under investigation by the State Police authorities.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether any officials have connived in this embezzlement?

Shri Hathi: It may be. We have not been able to spot out any particular official, as yet.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what action has been taken against these officials? Have they been suspended?

Shri Hathi: The matter is still under investigation.

Shri Achuthan: May I know whether this money has been taken after the work has been inspected by the Department concerned?

Shri Hathi: The money had been paid after the bills were passed, naturally.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is there any ground to suspect that some of the officers also were involved in these illegal transactions?

Shri Hathi: Probably, the matter is still under investigation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know when the enquiry will be over?

Shri Hathi: The first information was received only in December. It might take some more weeks.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the Government proposes to introduce the revised procedure with regard to accounting and mechanism of financial control recommended by the Mazumdar Committee which enquired into the Hirakud project?

Shri Hathi: This is regarding the Bhakra-Nangal project, and it is for the Punjab Government to consider.