

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

149

150

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 Chakravarty:** 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.

458 PSD

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

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** 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 Chakravarty:** 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 Chakravarty:** 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.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know how many contractors are involved in it and whether they had deposited any earnest money before taking this contract?

**Shri Hathi:** The number of contractors at present, so far as information is available, is two. Further information may be available after the complete investigation is over.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether the estimates of this project also like those of other projects would go up as a result of this embezzlement?

**Shri Hathi:** I think it has no relevancy with this question.

**Shri A. V. Thomas:** I want to know whether the revised procedure for similar projects will not be introduced in this project also?

**Shri Hathi:** That is the concern of the Bhakra Control Board.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether in the execution of every project, there is an embezzlement?

**Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** May I know whether an Enquiry Committee has been appointed to enquire into the corruption charges in the Bhakra-Nangal Project?

**Shri Hathi:** No, Sir.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** The Central Government contributes a large amount towards this project. Have they got any control over the accounting, etc.?

**Shri Hathi:** There are representatives of the Central Government on the Board.

#### ISSUE OF MIGRATION CERTIFICATES

\*94. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of migration certificates so far issued to intending migrants from East Bengal;

(b) from how many offices the certificates are issued; and

(c) whether any intending migrant, at any stage, has to satisfy the Pakistan authorities as to his *bona fides* as a migrant?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) 6,725 till the 31st January, 1953.

(b) In East Bengal only by the office of the Deputy High Commissioner for India at Dacca.

(c) No. Freedom of movement to migrants is provided for under the

Delhi Pact of April 1950 and a migrant is therefore not required to obtain permission to migrate from the country of his origin.

**Shri B. K. Das:** In view of the answer to part (c) of the question, May I know whether any intending migrant has to prove his *bona fides* as to his intending migration to this country?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** No, Sir. He has not to prove that but a certain question has arisen as to whether advantage might be taken of this migration clause by offenders who want to escape from justice. That is an entirely different question and that has been considered by our Government. Migrants as such, have not to take any permission.

**Shri B. K. Das:** As soon as any intending migrant makes an application then have not the authorities to satisfy themselves about his *bona fides* as to his coming to this country?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Which authorities?

**Shri B. K. Das:** Authorities there in Dacca.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The question of whether he is a *bona fide* migrant as such does not arise but the question has been raised whether he is not an offender of some other kind and under cover of migration, he may take advantage of it. Therefore, the question has been considered as to how to distinguish that and whether any kind of notice might be necessary.

**Shri B. K. Das:** In view of the fact that there is only one office in Dacca for issuing certificates, and more offices are necessary, may I know whether this question was discussed during the conference?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It was discussed at length and certain matters are being considered.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if the Government have got any idea as to the number of Muslim migrants who have taken migration certificates from India during that period?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have not got the break-up of the figures. At least I have not got them here. We have got figures, of course, daily, weekly and monthly of the number of people who have gone from East Pakistan to West Bengal or from West Bengal to East Bengal. That we have got.