

Shri Buragohain: I think nothing can prevent this Committee from going into all these things. It has already taken steps to get itself familiarised with the indenting of stores which is really the concern of the various Ministries, and, in fact, this Committee is so constituted as to include representatives of the various Ministries concerned, including Finance. A representative of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is also included in it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. We have spent enough time over this matter.

OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT

*979. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have signed any Operational Agreement with the Government of U.S.A. in December, 1952;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the Agreement; and

(c) whether the number of Development Blocks has been increased by this agreement?

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

(b) and (c). A copy of the Supplement to Operational Agreement No. 8 on Community Development Programme is laid on the Table. [See Appendix VI. annexure No. 50.]

Shri Ram Dass: May I know whether the allocation of Development Blocks which was to be made before 31st March, 1953, has been made or not?

Shri Hathi: No. The allotment has not yet been made.

Shri Bansal: Is there any allotment in this for dry farming areas?

Shri Hathi: As I have stated on previous occasions, the recommendations of the State Governments are invited. The allocation will depend on the recommendations of the State Governments.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know under what heads these blocks have been included?

Shri Hathi: I have not followed what the hon. Member means.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the hon. Minister need not answer this question. Next question.

ताजमहल बनाने का उद्योग

*९८०. **सेठ अचल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह मालम है कि इटली से निर्यात किए जाने वाले अल्बार्स्टर पत्थर के अभाव में तथा उस के महंगे होने के कारण आगरे के ताज-महल बनाने के उद्योग की बड़ी बुरी दशा है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई समुचित प्रबन्ध कर रही है ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). The Taj Modelling and the Marble Carving Industry were experiencing difficulty for some time but the position has now improved. As a result of investigation and experiment, the soap-stone available in the interior of Almora and Garhwal Districts have been found suitable for Marble-carving and these are being supplied to the Marble-workers of Agra by the U.P. Government. The State has also arranged for the import of 15 tons of Alabaster stone from Italy for the marble workers' Co-operative Society.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि इन ताज माडल से काफी डालर्स आते हैं ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May be, Sir. I am not in a position to answer the question.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने इटली से जो पत्थर आता है, उसका एक्सपेरीमेंट कराया है ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In this matter, I am entirely guided by the State Governments. Apparently, the U. P. Government considers that this substitute can be used.

Shri Achuthan: May I know the number of families engaged in this industry, roughly?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have notice.