

commodity he has in mind with regard to export of raw materials.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What are the metals whose manufacturing plants do not exist in this country at all?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know exactly what he means by 'manufacturing', whether it is processing or manufacturing out of metals.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Processing.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Of course, we are not in a position to process lead here.

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT (WAYS AND MEANS) FUND

*1618, **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the steps taken so far for the creation of Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund in pursuance of the suggestions made by the Planning Commission?

(b) Is such fund to be purely a concern of the State Government or of both the State and the Union Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The proposal to create an Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund was accepted by the Government of Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya-Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore-Cochin. Madhya Pradesh established a non-lapseable fund in 1952-53 with a small contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs a year. No other State has yet established such a Fund.

(b) According to the proposal made by the Planning Commission, the Irrigation Development (Ways and Means) Fund was intended to include contributions from the general revenues, proceeds of betterment fees and receipts of loans raised by the States, as well as such assistance from the Central Government in the form of loans and grants as might be feasible.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the funds collected under this Act would be spent only for productive irrigation purposes or whether they will be spent for unproductive irrigation works also?

Shri Hathi: These are questions of detail. They have not been examined.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the creation of this fund would

involve any change in the existing financial and accounting procedure relating to irrigation works?

Shri Hathi: There will be no change in the accounting procedure in this behalf.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this development fund will include the loan from beneficiaries as contemplated by the Planning Commission?

Shri Hathi: It would normally include that.

श्री एन० एल० जोशी : जि० २ राज्यों में यह फंड बन चुके हैं, उन में अभी तक केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कितनी सहायता दी है ?

Shri Hathi: This fund has been created only by Madhya Pradesh, and by no other State.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government have any idea of the exact amount so far contributed to this fund?

Shri Hathi: Only Madhya Pradesh has a fund, and I think, initially they had some Rs. 10 lakhs.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether some basis will be adopted for levying betterment fees?

Shri Hathi: It will depend upon the States themselves.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the receipts from betterment fees, water rate and irrigation cess are to go to constitute this fund?

Shri Hathi: Yes. They will form a part of this betterment fund.

Shri N. Somana: What is the percentage of Central grant to this fund?

Shri Hathi: It will depend upon each particular project first.

SALT PETER INDUSTRY

*1619, **Shri M. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the condition of salt peter industry at present in India;

(b) the amount of salt peter imported from abroad before, during and after the World War II, and produced during the same period within the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the condition of this industry and the labourers engaged in this industry?