

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Is it a fact that certain Naga organisations intended to present a memorandum to the Prime Minister when he was addressing a meeting at Kohima and that memorandum was not allowed to be presented, by the Deputy Commissioner for certain reasons?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, that is not correct. What happened, I believe, was that the Deputy Commissioner informed them that if they wished to present a memorandum, that was not the right place—a public meeting—and after the meeting they could come and present it.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** We have heard that there has been an arrest of a particular person who is supposed to be the Secretary of the Naga National Conference. May I know whether that has any political background or it was due to some personal feud?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I could not say particularly about that. But if it is, he must have been charged with some offence under the criminal law. So far as I know, no persons have been arrested merely because they are indulging in some kind of agitation or something but because they have offended against some law.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** One question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. I have allowed a number of supplementaries on this.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION IN KOSI VALLEY

\*1629. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether and if so, what steps have so far been taken with regard to soil conservation measures for reducing the heavy silt charge in the river Kosi as recommended by the Kosi Advisory Committee?

(b) What is the total estimated expenditure to be incurred for the purpose?

(c) Have the Governments of Bihar and Nepal been asked to assist in this work?

(d) If so, in what way are they co-operating?

(e) What is the total expenditure that has been incurred, so far, on it?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) No actual soil conservation measures have so far been carried out in the Kosi Catchment area. Only preliminary

surveys have been carried out, and more detailed surveys are necessary for drawing up a practical scheme for soil conservation in the catchment. The proposal for detailed surveys is under examination of the Government in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(b) The estimated expenditure has not yet been worked out.

(c) Not yet.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Government of Nepal and the Government of Bihar have been consulted in this matter and have been asked to take some measures for this purpose.

**Shri Hathi:** The Government of Bihar have been consulted. So far as the Government of Nepal is concerned, it is yet premature.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether any allotment has been made in this budget for this purpose?

**Shri Hathi:** The estimates have not been made. They will take more time.

#### HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

\*1630. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the number of working handlooms has decreased this year?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** Government have no precise information.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know what practical steps have been taken by the Government to help the handloom industry?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are going away from that.

**Shri Punnoose:** What steps have been taken by Government to increase the number of working handlooms?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If the hon. Member wants to plant a tree and plants a seed for that purpose, he should see that it goes into the earth and not dig it and see whether it has sprouted. The hon. Member must wait for some time.

#### ALLOCATION OF SCARCE RAW MATERIALS

\*1631. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the machinery set up to determine the allocation of scarce raw materials to different industries?