

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?

(b) What is the criteria of distribution?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). I am afraid that the question is wide as well as vague. The nature of the arrangements for the distribution of scarce raw materials to industries will naturally depend upon the degree of scarcity, relative essentiality of the various purposes for which the material is used, the possibility of substitution etc. All these factors vary from time to time and suitable adjustments have to be made. I am unable to say more in answer to this very general question but if the hon. Member desires information regarding any particular raw-material, he may put a separate question.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I did not get any answer to my question at part (b).

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The criteria employed in regard to distribution of scarce material vary from scarce material to scarce material and according to the nature and the degree of scarcity existing at the time. For instance, I may mention that today on the question of distribution of steel, we are fairly liberal because the off-take in certain types of steel is not very high and the position changes from quarter to quarter. In regard to pig iron, the position is slightly different because the commodity is getting scarce. All steel plants are using more pig iron themselves and we have not got enough pig iron capacity in this country. Similarly in regard to copper, the distribution of this material was scarce. Today, it is no longer scarce. The same thing in regard to sulphur. It was a very scarce commodity last year and quite a number of our plants which were using sulphur had to restrict production. Today, sulphur is no longer scarce and the necessity for distribution is not there. So, how could I, Sir, lay down any precise set of criteria for distribution of scarce material?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a general question and a general answer has been given.

HANDICRAFTS MARKETING CONFERENCE

*1632. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether a Handicrafts Marketing Conference was held in Trivandrum in February 1953?

(b) At whose instance was the conference called and what was the object and outcome of the same?

(c) How many hours did the conference last?

(d) What was the total expenditure incurred in holding the conference?

(e) Were the minutes of the proceedings recorded?

(f) If so, do Government propose to place a copy thereof on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conference was held at the instance of the All-India Handicrafts Board to discuss the marketing of Handicrafts in India as well as abroad. The conference recommended the setting up of a Central Co-ordinating Agency for marketing Handicrafts.

(c) Very nearly four hours.

(d) As the conference was held just after the Handicrafts Board's meeting and as the members of the Handicrafts Board who attended the Marketing Conference drew T. A. and daily allowance for attending the Board meeting, no additional expenditure on travelling and daily allowances in connection with the Marketing Conference was incurred.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A copy of the proceedings of the Conference is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. S-43/53.]

Shri M. L. Agrawal: May I know the names of the States which participated in this conference? Is it a fact that some States could not participate as the place where the conference was held was not a central place?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got a list of participants here. I have not had it analysed Statewise. It is quite possible that some States did not participate because of the distance but then it was felt that the area is sufficiently important for the conference to be held.

Shri M. L. Agrawal: May I know whether the conclusions reached in this conference were unanimous, and which of them have been implemented so far?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would suggest to the hon. Member to read the proceedings placed on the Table of the