

Hill Division was declared after protracted negotiations between the management and the workers' Union?

Shri Hathi: It was not a protracted thing. It was only a question of four or five days' negotiation.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, whether in the agreement arrived at, the demand of the workers that they should not be discharged for the duration of the work, has been agreed to by the management?

Shri Hathi: I think that has been agreed to.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, whether instead of conceding the justifiable demands of the workers, Shri Asit Roy, General Secretary of the Union, was transferred on 24 hours notice to Maithon Dam and that caused the strike?

Shri Hathi: I would require notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know what is the total number of workers in each dam and whether they are members of any labour organisation?

Shri Hathi: There is no organisation as such registered. The number at Panchet Hill is 550 and that at Maithon, 2556.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, whether, in spite of an undertaking given when the agreement was arrived at that no workers would be sent away during the work, 28 employees have now been dispensed with on the plea of retrenchment, and that is causing unrest among the workers?

Shri Hathi: I have no information. I shall look into that.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Since the question of working conditions in the river valley projects was raised at the budget session of Parliament last time, have the Government taken any positive steps in setting up some machinery for the settlement of the grievances of workers in these projects, and if so, what is the shape of such machinery?

Shri Hathi: So far as the Damodar Valley Corporation is concerned, the Labour Welfare officers are there and they look into all the amenities, and if there are any disputes, so far as they have arisen, they have been amicably settled. So there is no question, for the present, of having such a machinery.

Shri Punnoose: Are Government aware that in the course of the strike, the police was called in several times and the workers were dispersed by using lathis?

Shri Hathi: Maybe that the police had come there, but they were not called in for dispersing the workers by the use of lathis.

DECENTRALISATION OF NEWS SERVICE

*187. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a scheme to decentralise the news service; and

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to make this scheme a success?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir. An experiment is being made at two Stations of All India Radio with regional bulletins carrying only regional news.

(b) The regional news bulletins are being broadcast at present from Lucknow and Nagpur Stations. The question of extending the scheme gradually to other Stations will be considered in the light of experience gained at these two stations.

Ch. Raghbir Singh: May I know, Sir, the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on this scheme?

Dr. Keskar: It is too early to evaluate the expenditure because the starting of the bulletins really means the addition of two or three persons to carry on the work of the programme. There is no other addition

to the Station staff. It will be possible only after two or three months more to know exactly what it will cost us on an annual basis.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is Government contemplating its own news scheme in view of the fact that the Government pays a very substantial sum to the PTI and the PTI is almost being paralysed now on account of the blundering of the management towards its honest and hard working employees?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A number of questions are strung up.

Dr. Keskar: I may inform the hon. Member that Government have no intention of having their own news service.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Press Information Bureau is now running a news service of its own in its regional headquarters?

Dr. Keskar: We have at certain places our own correspondents, though the number of such places are few, and they try to get local news of importance. Over and above this, there is no coordinated news service as such.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

*188. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government have made any special arrangements to explain the significance and the progress of the Five Year Plan to people in rural areas?

(b) If so, what are those arrangements and how are they going to be effected?

(c) What is the budget for this kind of arrangement for the year 1953?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, a programme of integrated publicity has been drawn up to explain the significance and the progress of the Plan to people in all parts of the country.

(b) The programme provides for the utilization of the various media of publicity viz., films, press, publications, posters and folders and radio. It also provides for regional units and mobile vans in order to make the people of rural areas conversant with the significance of plan.

(c) The estimated expenditure for the year 1953-54 is at present under active consideration: it will be finalized very soon.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know if any documentaries have been prepared to show the progress of work so far as these Community Projects and other things are concerned?

Dr. Keskar: There are three or four documentaries depicting the work and the idea behind the Community Projects, as well as, for example, the river valley projects. But that is not what probably the questioner has meant as an integrated publicity plan which has a larger conception than, for example, producing documentaries on specific items of the Five Year Plan.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, whether these programmes are being carried out in South India?

Dr. Keskar: I have not understood what programme is meant.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: These programmes give only theoretical benefit to the people of the South.

Dr. Keskar: I think the hon. Member has misunderstood my answer. Sir, as I said, this publicity of the Five Year Plan in an integrated way has not yet been launched. We have been doing it in a piece-meal way up till now and when it will be launched, naturally, it will be of an all-India coverage and the South will not be excluded.

Shri Heda: Apart from the documentaries, which are short, are Government contemplating to take any steps for the educational films in