

regard to evacuee property with Pakistan and naturally, if there is a successful conclusion of these talks, our scheme will be affected by that settlement. If, unfortunately, there is a breakdown, Government will then be at liberty to take a unilateral decision. It is rather a complicated question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has agreement been arrived at on any item with Pakistan so far as evacuee property is concerned?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, on certain items there has been provisional agreement.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is he prepared to disclose what items have been settled so far?

Shri A. P. Jain: Not at this stage.

Pandit S. C. Mishra: May I know when insinuations are not allowed in questions or answers, why that insinuation was allowed in the answer of the hon. Minister? He said 'So long as the hon. Member is interested in the refugee problem, there will be no dearth of representations coming'. Why was that allowed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would say, generally it is unnecessary to introduce such personal element in either the question or the answer. I hope that will be avoided in future.

REPORT OF I.J.M.A. MISSION TO AUSTRALIA

***374. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association's Mission to Australia has submitted some report to Government; and

(b) if so, their main observations and recommendations?

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

(b) A statement giving the main conclusions of the Delegation as extracted from their report is laid on the

Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31]

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the chief reason for the fall in the Australian trade was the exorbitant prices charged by the exporters?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It may be, Sir, that there was a time when high prices were charged by the exporters. We also levied a high export duty. It may be one of the contributory causes.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is the Government contemplating entering into a new agreement with Australia for the export of jute this year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether this Indian Jute Mills Association's Mission to Australia and other neighbouring countries has at all helped our export trade in jute?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Mission went only recently and the results cannot be observed quite so soon.

BHAKRA CONTROL BOARD

***375. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether some decision has been made to replace Bhakra Control Board by some autonomous body; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to take charge of the affairs?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

सेठ बच्चत सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भाखरा कंट्रोल बोर्ड का पर्सनल क्या है ?

Shri Hathi: The members of the Bhakra Control Board are the two representatives from the Government of India, one from the Ministry of Finance and one from the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and representatives from the PEPSU, Rajasthan and the Punjab probably.

Shri C. K. Nair: May I know whether it has any representatives from the Delhi State?

Shri Hath: No, Sir.

WORK ON KOSI PROJECT

***377. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 225 asked on the 20th February, 1953 regarding the work on Kosi Project and state:

(a) the progress made so far on the various items of work that are in hand; and

(b) whether foundation explorations for the concrete dam at Belka Dam site has been completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hath): (a) The following investigations for the Belka dam on the Kosi river have been completed:

- (i) Surveys along the alignment of the dam and the canals;
- (ii) Foundation explorations;
- (iii) Soil survey and borrow area investigations;
- (iv) Surveys for construction material such as coarse and fine aggregate and riprap; and
- (v) Property survey for the reservoir area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the nature of the work that is going on at present at the Belka dam site?

Shri Hath: Sir, at present the only work that is going on at Belka and the area nearby is taking the data of the floods area.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Belka dam is being abandoned; and, if so, what is the reason, whether it is finance or due to expert opinion?

Shri Hath: It is not actually that the Belka dam is being abandoned. There

was a report of the Advisory Committee and that Committee, as the hon. Member knows, suggested that the dead storage would be silted up within 17 years. The estimates rose from 28 crores of rupees to 48 crores and therefore, looking to these further investigations have to be made.

Shri L. N. Mishra: The fear of silting was expressed by the Advisory Committee at the very start then why was this investigation carried on for so many years?

Shri Hath: The Advisory Committee submitted its report. The estimate was at Rs. 28 crores only and it was also suggested that further investigation may be taken up whereby the silt could be controlled. However it is now found after investigation that only 5 to 10 per cent. of the silt would be checked and that it would not be of much use.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the construction of the barrage can be taken up independently of the Belka and old Kosi dam project?

Shri Hath: That can be taken up independently.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the question of taking up the construction of the Western earthen embankment was also in the view of the Government?

Shri Hath: The construction of the embankment was also recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: May I know, Sir, how many acres of land will be irrigated in Rajasthan?

Shri Hath: Kosi does not irrigate any land in Rajasthan.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the Government knew of the greater rate of silting of this Kosi river nearly five years ago or is it some new factor that has come to light?

Shri Hath: It is not a new factor, Sir.