

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the reply I gave to another question on the 20th February, 1953 (Starred Question No. 219).

**Shri Ajit Singh:** May I know whether any engineer was taken as a member of this Committee?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The composition of this Committee was notified in the gazette. I do not remember the personnel at the moment but I presume there were engineer members also on the Committee.

#### KOSI PROJECT

\*664. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the Kosi Project so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** The total expenditure incurred on the Kosi Project investigations up to the end of September 1953 is Rs. 87,11,610.

**Shri Gidwani:** What is the revised estimated cost of the project and when will the project be completed?

**Shri Hathi:** The revised estimates are still under consideration.

**Shri Gidwani:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the press that Government may give up the project as the site selected is unsuitable because of the river getting silted?

**Shri Hathi:** It is not a fact that Government is going to give it up. On the other hand, the investigations are going ahead and in a fortnight or so it will be possible to say what exactly will be the position.

**Shri Gidwani:** Do Government propose to send a deputation to China for studying the scientific method of preventing silt formation?

**Shri Hathi:** That is under the consideration of Government.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether the question of apportioning

financial responsibility between the different Governments of Nepal, Bihar and India has been decided upon and if so, what are the details?

**Shri Hathi:** That can be done only after the estimates are known.

#### CONSTRUCTIONS OF OFFICES NEAR HARDINGE BRIDGE, NEW DELHI

\*666. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Central Government Offices under construction, for the Finance Ministry, near Hardinge Bridge, New Delhi; and

(b) the date of commencement and the stipulated period for completion of this work?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) The estimated cost of the actual building under construction is Rs. 20·21 lacs.

(b) The work commenced on 12th November, 1952 and should be completed by February 1954.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** How many tenders were received for this work?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid it is going too much into the details of administration. What is the point of enquiring about tenders?

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** It is an information which must be available.

**Mr. Speaker:** Unless there is ground for suspecting that there is something underhand it will not be proper to go into such details of administration.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether the contract was given to the lowest tenderer?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Yes, Sir, to the lowest.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** When was this tender by the lowest tenderer received and when was it accepted?

Was there considerable delay in accepting the tender?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** No, Sir, there was no delay in accepting the tender.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Is it a fact that this firm of contractors has several other contracts with other Ministries, and may I know also whether the proprietor of this firm was a contestant in the last elections on the Congress ticket?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That information is incorrect.

**Shri Punnoose:** Is it a fact that complaints have been received against this contractor as having assaulted some of the supervisory staff there?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I will go to the next question.

#### TOBACCO RE-DRYING PLANTS

\*667. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many re-drying plants were licensed for import by business concerns and individual dealers in tobacco in Andhra, by the Controller of Exports and Imports subsequent to the purchase of one plant by Government?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** The statistics required are difficult to compile as the Import Trade Control Schedule carries no separate classification for re-drying plants.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know in what year the re-drying plant was purchased by the Government?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice, but I find that as far back as 1946 there were eleven re-drying plants in the country, nine in Madras and two in Bihar.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know how many import licences have been granted to business concerns and individuals in Guntur to import re-drying plants?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I could not give the whole figure. It will not be commensurate with the trouble undertaken to find out about Guntur particularly.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know whether it is a fact that Government, with a view to selling away its re-drying plant, granted licences in favour of business firms and private individuals?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I take that information, but will have first to check it for its accuracy.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether this re-drying plant is working or not?

**Shri Karmarkar:** "This" means which? There are many plants in the country. The existing capacity is 20 million lbs.

**Shri Nanadas:** The one at Guntur. Is it working or not? If it is not working, what are the reasons?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice about Guntur.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know at what cost Government has purchased this plant which is at Guntur?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice about that also, naturally.

#### GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING, QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD

\*668. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No. 1264 on the 14th September 1953, regarding multi-storeyed Central Government Offices' building construction at Queen Victoria Road, New Delhi, and state:

(a) the estimated and the lowest tendered amounts for the framed structure portion of the work; and

(b) the reasons for transferring the former Executive Engineer, Diplomatic Enclave Division, C.P.W.D., New Delhi to some Madras Division?