

Shri T. T. Krisbnamachari: I am afraid it is too premature to make an assessment or appraisal of the results.

BHAKRA DAM

*3. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether any recent change has been effected in the schedule of the construction of the Bhakra Dam?

(b) If so, would this change affect the final completion of the project in any way and if so, how?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Sbri Nanda): (a) and (b). The only change made recently in the schedule of construction of the Bhakra Dam is the postponement of the diversion of the river from winter 1953-54 to winter 1954-55. We have been assured by the Construction authorities that this will not affect or delay the final date of completion of the Project. This position is being examined.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether we would require the hiring of some additional foreign experts in order to make up the deficiency and complete the dam within the time schedule that has been fixed?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What were the special factors that contributed to the schedule not being kept up as we had arranged?

Shri Nanda: I have a report from the General Manager and on the basis of that report, I can give information to the hon. Member. The circumstances which account for this postponement are stated to be that certain important machinery and equipment which should have arrived earlier did not arrive in time. That is number one. Number two is that the last rainy season happened to be much more prolonged and the rains were much heavier and started much earlier. But the chief reason, as I judge from the report, is that very vital machinery did not arrive in time.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Chairman of the Control Board had a different opinion when the new decision was taken?

Shri Nanda: I will have to explain the whole programme at various stages. In December 1952, the programme was revised. Then the programme was that the diversion had to take place in October 1953 and the coffer dam had to be completed in June 1954. Excavation was to be completed by April 1955 and concreting was to start in October 1955 and completed in October 1959. That was the programme. Later, in March 1953, they made some change. They found that they could not start the diversion in October. They then proposed to change the diversion and postpone it by a few months. But the idea was that they will still have the coffer dam rise up to a partial height of 200 ft and then take another season to build it up to the full height of 280 ft. That was in March, but later on they felt otherwise. It was argued out and ultimately the conclusion was, on expert technical opinion, that this would not be a very safe course, because the flood might flow over the partially-complete coffer dam. So, the new programme that was placed before the Control Board in August was that the diversion will be postponed by a year, which means the later completion of the coffer dam. As I have stated, the final completion of the project after construction of the diversion channel will not be affected.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know if this will have any effect on the proposal of the Government to give water to Hissar District in May 1954?

Shri Nanda: It does not affect that.

TIBET

*4. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the People's Republic of China to discuss the outstanding matters regarding India and Tibet; and