

D. V. C. BOARD

*1310. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state how long the Damodar Valley Corporation was without a Board?

(b) What are the causes of the resignation or taking leave of the two members of the Board?

(c) Has any temporary Board been set up?

(d) If so, from what time?

(e) When is the permanent Board expected to be formed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Corporation was never without a Board.

(b) No member of the Board resigned. The Chairman took leave after his 5 year term ended. One member availed of leave due to him on medical grounds preparatory to the expiry of his term.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A temporary Board was set up from 7th July, 1953.

(e) Very shortly.

N.E.F.A. DEVELOPMENT

*1311. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned a development plan costing Rs. 604.45 lakhs for the North East Frontier Agency?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): A Five Year Development Plan for the North East Frontier Agency has been sanctioned by the Government of India with the concurrence of the Planning Commission. The estimated cost of the Plan is Rs. 3 crores. In addition certain important roads at a cost of Rs. 304.45 lakhs are under construction in the Agency.

The Plan contains various schemes regarding educational and medical

facilities, introduction of improved methods of agriculture, development of forests, cottage industries and public health activities.

SITARAM MILLS

*1312. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have been approached by the Government of Travancore-Cochin State to take over the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills; and

(b) if so, what has been their decision?

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

(a) and (b). Government of India were approached by the Travancore-Cochin Government at one time with a request of this nature in regard to this mill. But before we could take any decision, the matter was taken to the Court by a creditor of the mill.

We understand that the Travancore-Cochin Government have taken over the mill in question under an arrangement arrived at by them with the liquidator appointed by Court.

COFFEE INDUSTRY

*1313. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what steps if any, Government propose to take for marketing the accumulated stocks of coffee?

(b) Are Government aware that the present condition in the coffee industry is leading to increasing unemployment among the workers?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Coffee is marketed regularly through public auctions and by allotments to Cooperative Societies and Propaganda Departments of the Indian Coffee Board. In addition, 3,000 tons of coffee of 1952-53 crop have recently been released for export.