

project against the recommendation of the Khosla Committee?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): It is not at all the intention. The report made by Mr. Khosla had suggested certain further investigations. Various Governments had to participate, and those investigations have now been nearly completed, and we are getting a report. There is no going behind any earlier decision.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Andhra Government has been asked to send a report about the feasibility of both the Krishna-Penar and Nandikonda projects before either is taken into the first Five Year Plan?

Shri Nanda: Yes, this has been done.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the report that is to be submitted by the Andhra State Government and the Hyderabad State Government will be final?

Shri. Hathi: The report will be considered by the Government. It will be for the consideration of the Government—not that the report will be final and binding.

MAHANADI BRIDGE ACCOUNTS

*32. **Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to starred question No. 1103 asked on the 18th December, 1953 regarding the report of the Enquiry Committee to investigate into the accounts relating to the construction of a bridge across the Mahanadi and state:

(a) whether the consideration of the report has since been completed;

(b) if so, what their findings are; and

(c) the conclusions and decisions of Government thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c).

The important findings of the Committee are:

(1) The final cost of the Mahanadi Rail-Road Bridge is Rs. 68,75,184 subject to a few adjustments which are yet to be made.

(2) The increase in the final cost was mainly due to want of proper planning in the execution of work and under-estimating, extensive use of Hamilton girders, importation of labour at higher wages, employment of large number of workmen on muster rolls and work-charged establishment without adequate safeguards, award of work orders before inviting competitive tenders and certain infructuous expenditure.

The report is still under consideration by the Government in consultation with the authorities concerned.

Shri R. N. S. Deo: May I know if there was any finding about false muster rolls in the accounts?

Shri Hathi: Not actually about false muster rolls, but on the method of muster rolls there were some comments.

Shri R. N. S. Deo: May I know what action Government have taken against the officer concerned?

Shri Hathi: The whole report is still being considered. Action will be taken after that.

Shri R. N. S. Deo: May I know how the cost of the project is proposed to be allocated?

Shri Hathi: That is being examined between the various Ministries—Transport, Railways, and Irrigation and Power.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Minister is aware that there are a large number of cases of false accounting as a result of which there was huge defalcation of money?

Mr. Speaker: Where? In this particular project?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Yes.

Shri Hathi: No, there is none.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Dr. Nataraj Pandey: Is it a fact that the present condition of the bridge over Mahanadi is getting worse day by day for want of repairs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called the next question.

TRADE MARKS INQUIRY COMMITTEE

*33. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Marks Inquiry Committee has finished its work;

(b) if the report has been submitted, what are the major recommendations that have been made therein; and

(c) if not, what is the time that will be taken by the Committee to submit its report?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of April 1954.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether at the time of appointment of this Committee any time-limit was fixed for the submission of its report?

Shri Karmarkar: No time was fixed, but the Committee was expected to submit its report by the end of February.

HANDLOOM WEAVERS

*35. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amounts given to the Punjab State from the Handloom Fund for giving relief to the weavers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A grant of Rs. 24,160 has been sanctioned.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On what basis was this amount arrived at?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I might explain. The position is that the Punjab Government have been told that they might prepare schemes for a particular amount. And in this instance, I think they were told the schemes might be to the extent of Rs. 3,38,000. The schemes that they have submitted and have been sanctioned are only for Rs. 24,000 and odd. We have still under scrutiny four other schemes—one involving about Rs. 2,08,000; another Rs. 16,000; the third Rs. 32,450 and the fourth one Rs. 8,000.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when those schemes would be finally decided upon and what will be the amount of further grant given to the Punjab Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, the Punjab Government have been asked to send schemes for up to about Rs. 3,38,000 and it is our hope these schemes will be sanctioned well before the end of the month because I do not want this money to lapse. I want the money to be utilised this year.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how this grant is distributed among the weavers? Is it done after consultation with the Central Government, or is it done by the Punjab Government on its own?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The broad lines of distribution are determined when making the grant. The actual distribution of the money is left to the State Government.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any distinction is made between the backward areas of a State and those areas which may be comparatively progressive economically?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In this instance I am afraid I am not in a position to furnish an answer, but it is the intention of the Government of India in making these grants that, as far as possible, State Governments.