

Shri Hathi: It will be for the State Government to make investigations; the Central Government has not sanctioned anything for investigation purposes for the States.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have the Government received any report from the U.P. Government, whether in the nature of a project report or a preliminary report, about this scheme?

Shri Hathi: We have received a report, but it is not yet complete.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: What is the acreage that will be irrigated under this scheme?

Shri Hathi: The acreage is 1.62 lakhs.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: What is the rough estimated cost of the scheme?

Shri Hathi: The rough estimate at present intimated to Government is Rs. 194 lakhs.

सेठ अबल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गंडक स्कीम के अलावा और भी कोई स्कीम उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार न भेजी है ?

Shri Hathi: Three more schemes were suggested by the U.P. Government.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have Government any idea of the devastation caused by floods in the Gandak in U.P. and in Bihar?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does this question arise? This is only a canal scheme.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether Government has decided to take up this project in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri Hathi: That decision has yet to be taken and it will be considered by the Advisory Committee first.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या इस योजना में एकेट्रिक का उत्पादन भी शामिल है ?

Shri Hathi: No, it is only irrigation.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार जो बू. पी० और बिहार की दो योजनाएं एक ही नदी गंडक से निकलती हैं, उनको एक में नहीं शामिल कर सकती है ?

Shri Hathi: All that depends upon the schemes which are submitted by different States to the Advisory Committee that has been appointed and the Advisory Committee will examine them.

"FREEDOM OF INFORMATION"

*1405. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:**

(a) Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether India was also requested to submit her views on "Freedom of Information" by the U.N. General Assembly which is reported to have adopted a resolution recently calling upon its member countries to submit their views?

(b) If so, have Government forwarded their views?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I enquire whether India is a member of the U.N.O., and, if so, whether she has been excluded from this invitation?

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member has not read carefully the U.N.O. resolution and that is why, I think, he is putting this question. In the second part of the resolution, it says that the General Assembly invite the Secretary-General to request the information enterprises and professional associations to expedite their comments on the draft international code of ethics. They did not ask the Governments of the States to submit their views.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: As, however, the Press in India is openly accused of making excursions into the realm of speculation for want or shortage of news and for want of freedom

of information, what steps do Government propose to take to rationalise the whole system?

Dr. Keskar: Does it arise out of this question?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No.

NATIONAL BUILDING ORGANISATION

***1406. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Building Organisation; and

(b) what would be its functions?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The principal function of the National Buildings Organisation will be to co-ordinate research in building materials and building practices and to make the results of such researches, undertaken both in India and abroad, available to the building industry in the private and public sector in a form which would be readily appreciated by them.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know, Sir, if this Organisation has been able to evolve any models up till now?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This Organisation has not yet actually started functioning.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In view of the fact that this Organisation is going to start after two years or two months—which is immaterial—is it under the contemplation of Government to put any limit on the cost of the model which will be evolved, so that it may be within the reach of the people of each area?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think, Sir there is some confusion on this point. The function of the National Building Organisation will not be to put up any specific models. If the mind of the

hon. Member is working in terms of the model houses that have been put up in the Exhibition that is a different matter. The National Building Organisation is going to do something much more than merely putting up model houses.

Shri Heda: May I know what was the estimated expenditure on this Organisation for the last year and how much of it was spent?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The estimated expenditure was in the Budget. I am sure the hon. Member who is a very vigilant Member knows the figure. I have already stated that the National Building Organisation has not started functioning yet and no expenditure could have been incurred.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that the employers have not been taking advantage of the loans and grants, as Government have planned? If so, are Government willing to undertake building houses either directly or through the housing boards, whichever may be suitable?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does this question arise?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is another question on industrial housing scheme and I would request the hon. Member to reserve his supplementary for that.

INDIAN INVESTMENTS IN NEPAL

***1407. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of investment by Indians in industries in Nepal;

(b) the average amount invested every year; and

(c) whether any restrictions have been placed by the Nepal Government on Indian undertakings in Nepal?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No authoritative statistics are available;