

CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

***848. Shri Buchhikotiah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India intend to convene a conference on Atomic Energy in Delhi;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be held; and

(c) the main subjects to be discussed in the conference?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Sometime in November, 1954.

(c) Development of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes in India.

Shri Buchhikotiah: May I know what preliminary steps were taken till now to convene the conference?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The preliminary steps taken were to consult people; fix a suitable date—it is rather difficult to fix suitable dates because many of the important members were repeatedly going out of India—and then draw provisional lists of the people to be invited and the subjects.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether there will be invitees from outside countries; if so, how many of them will be invited and belonging to which countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As far as I know it is not intended to invite any persons from outside to this particular conference.

Shri Amjad Ali: Is this conference likely to review the work of the Indian Atomic Energy Mission for the last five years?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is not the purpose of the conference, but, inevitably, some reference to the work is bound to be made; I take it.

SMALL-SCALE ENGINEERING CONCERNS

***849. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved of a scheme for the development of small-scale engineering concerns in and near Howrah; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). The question is under negotiation with the Government of West Bengal.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has Government any schemes regarding avoidance of unemployment which threatens a large proportion of workers in these concerns?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Apart from the proposals now under examination, there are no specific schemes.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether Government have enquired about the conditions of these industries prior to negotiations with the Government of West Bengal?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Government have a fair idea about the condition of the industries.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it true that the Statistical Bureau at a preliminary enquiry reported that nearly 45 per cent. of installed capacity is lying idle?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have said times without number that installed capacity does not mean effective capacity and, therefore, I am unable to answer the question.

POWER TO ROURKELA PROJECT

***850. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision to supply power from Hirakud to Rourkela Project has been arrived at;