

(b) whether there is any plan of designing and setting up a Reactor for the purpose of utilising Thorium at a second stage of the development of research; and

(c) whether there is a plan for the production of heavy water in the Bhakra-Nangal region for the projected Reactor in Trombay?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes. It is intended to put up a Research Reactor in Trombay. The cost will depend upon its final design and on some other factors and cannot be stated accurately now.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether Government have fixed any time-limit for the completion of the first Research Reactor in Trombay?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Naturally, they have got a general idea of what they would like to do, but there are so many uncertain factors that any precise time-limit is difficult.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether the claims of sites other than Trombay were considered by the Government and whether the opinions of any body of scientists, other than the atomic energy group, were considered by Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The claims of various places were considered in the sense that a team went about looking into a number of places. Obviously no group can go to every part of India, and after considerable discussion lasting for about a year, they came to the conclusion that that was the best site. Many people, including some Indian scientists and some foreign scientists who came, were consulted on this matter.

DHOTIES (ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY) ACT

*613. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised under the Dhoties (Additional Excise Duties) Act, 1953, during the period from July, 1954 to October, 1954;

(b) the total yardage on which this duty was levied;

(c) the yardage on which duty at As. -/8/- per yard was realised; and

(d) the total number of mills who paid this duty?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) The total amount realised during the period July, 1954, to September, 1954, was Rs. 2,25,667/-. Figures for October, 1954 are not yet available.

(b) 1,700,107.

(c) 107.

(d) 24

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What was the total yardage of dhoties manufactured under ordinary law and on which no additional duties were imposed?

Shri Kanungo: I require notice. I can give the other one.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Does the Government consider that this additional manufacture of dhoties is detrimental to the interests of the handloom industry?

Shri Kanungo: That is exactly the purpose for which it is meant—to help it.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: The hon. Deputy Minister replied that it was done in the interests of the handloom industry. I want to know how he has come to that conclusion?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it is necessary to go into that.

HIRAKUD DAM

*614. **Shri Lokenath Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) how the coastal area of Puri in Orissa will be benefited by the Hirakud

Dam both by irrigation and power; and

(b) whether Government propose to make the Research Section in Hirakud permanent to obtain the maximum utilisation of the soil?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The coastal area of Purv will get flood protection but not the benefit of irrigation and power from the Hirakud Dam Project (Stage I).

(b) This question has not yet been considered. It is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Orissa.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Has the Government examined the possibility of water-logging in the deltaic areas of the district, as the rivers,—particularly the river mouths,—have almost silted up and blocked to sufficient discharge of rain and flood water?

Shri Hathi: That is being examined.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: When will we get the results?

Shri Hathi: It will take some time, I can't give an exact date now.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Has the Government considered any measures to remedy this evil?

Shri Hathi: That can be done only after we have examined the proposal.

SHRINES IN PAKISTAN

*615. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 292 asked on the 31st August, 1954 and state the steps taken by the Pakistan Government to protect the Hindu and Sikh shrines and holy places after their ratification of the August 1953 Agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): The agreement was ratified in April, 1954. The Government of Pakistan have

issued instructions to their Provincial Governments etc. in regard to the preservation and maintenance of sanctity of religious places of Non-Muslims in that country on the 25th June, 1954 and directed them to take suitable steps for implementing the agreement both in letter and spirit.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government of India has any information about the precise number of Hindu and Sikh shrines and holy places that have been left by the Hindus and Sikhs in West Pakistan?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: No, Sir, we have not got that figure.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, if that is the situation, how is this agreement going to work, because the number of shrines is not known and the precise nature of the agreement is not known?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: No, Sir; we know the actual number of shrines that are desecrated and as that is known we write to the Government of Pakistan. In this case it is known that 1,028 shrines have been desecrated and we have actually written to the Government of Pakistan on this subject.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is the Government aware of the fact that some of the followers or devotees of these shrines are prepared to go there in small numbers and look after them? If so, has the Government taken up this question with the Pakistan Government and with what result?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We have no such information and we have not received any request from any person that they want to go and look after the shrines in Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the batches of visitors who got permission to visit these shrines during the last seven years, have ever