

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 12th June, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BHAKRA CONTROL BOARD

*735. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhakra Control Board decided to recruit experts from the U.S.A. for construction of the Bhakra Dam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chairman of the Board visited U.S.A. twice to make final selection of experts for this project; and

(c) what was the expenditure incurred during these visits?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Vice-Chairman of the Board visited the U.S.A. only once in this connection.

(c) Rs. 14,900 approximately.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have those experts arrived on the spot or not yet?

Shri Nanda: Some have. They have already recruited eight specialists out of the number that they required.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that one of these experts is the highest paid official in the world?

Shri Nanda: I have no information about all the experts in the world and as to what everyone draws.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Vice-Chairman again overseas during these days?

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir, in another connection.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that he called for tenders for construction of certain works in connection with the Bhakra Dam and when all the foreign firms had sent in their agents and submitted their tenders he decided to go himself overseas to select the firm to whom he would give the tender?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir. It is a different object for which the Vice-Chairman has gone—that is as far as my information goes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Then what about that fact which I wanted to know, that is whether tenders had been called for construction of a part of this dam and tenders had been received and the foreign firms had also sent in their representatives? If those tenders had been received has any one been selected?

Shri Nanda: Tenders have been called for at different times and unless there is specific information as to what the hon. Member refers to I cannot give an answer.

Mr. Speaker: He refers to tenders for construction work.

Shri Nanda: At one time there was a proposal to give the contract for construction to a firm of construction agency. After mature consideration it was decided that the work should be done departmentally. If the hon. Member gives me notice of the specific tender I will give him the information.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know the name of the expert who was called to give opinion on this question?

Shri Nanda: The opinion of Mr. Savage was taken regarding the selection of the specialists to be recruited for the Bhakra-Nangal Dam.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know, Sir, whether this recruitment could not have been made through our embassy in America?

Shri Nanda: It was found necessary that the Vice-Chairman should go personally. That was decided by the Control Board—after having made attempts by other means they found that it was necessary for the Vice-Chairman to go.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What are the emoluments of these specialists and for what period have they been appointed?

Shri Nanda: Mr. Slowcombe has been appointed for a period of three years. Regarding the others the periods vary.

STEEL PLANT

*736. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Industrial Missions which visited India proposed the starting of a steel plant in Madras; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands at present?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Did the delegation visit Madras, Sir, and, if so, have they had any discussions there?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not quite sure of the position. I would like notice.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the mission had a talk with the Chief Minister of Madras with regard to the steel plant there and whether the Government of India is aware of that?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no information.

Shri Nambiar: Is there any proposal at all to start a steel plant in Madras or anywhere in India with the help of the Japanese Mission?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The answer is the answer I gave to part (a) of the question—no.

TREATY WITH U.S.A.

*737. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India and the U.S.A. have reached agreement on the

fundamental terms of a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Discussions have been going on intermittently for the last four years for a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between India and the U.S.A. An agreement on several issues has been reached, but there are some other issues which have still to be considered. Negotiations to resolve these remaining points of difference are in progress.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know how long it will take for the final formulation of this treaty of friendship?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I suggest the hon. Member if he believes in astrology to go to an astrologer.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether a treaty of friendship on the lines mentioned by the Prime Minister will affect our dynamic neutrality?

Mr. Speaker: Order. order. Next question.

RELIEF SCHEME FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

*738. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have sanctioned a relief scheme for displaced persons under which a person who left Post Office Savings Bank accounts in Pakistan or who held postal certificates for which payments have not yet been received will be eligible for monthly allowances;

(b) if so, what is the rate of the monthly allowance; and

(c) for how long that allowance would be payable?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Persons having Post Office Savings Bank Accounts or Postal Cash Certificates with a balance or value not exceeding Rs. 1,000 will be paid Rs. 75 p.m. for a period of 6 months, or half the total deposit in six equal monthly instalments, whichever is less. Where such balances exceed Rs. 1,000, relief will be paid at the rate of Rs. 100 p.m. for a period of 6 months.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Has any decision been arrived at in regard to giving relief to those who held postal life insurance policies?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes.