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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, the 20th June, 1952

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HIRAKUD DEVELOPMENT BOARD

*1036. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a Hirakud Development Board; and

(b) if so, what would be the function of that Board?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A copy of the Government of India, Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research Resolution No. DW. II-12 (27), dated 27th March, 1952 setting up the Hirakud Control and Development Boards and giving their constitution and functions is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 40].

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether it is also intended to constitute a control Board for the Hirakud project, and if so where the headquarters of that Board will be located?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The matter mentioned by the hon. Member is under consideration, and it is possible that a single Board might replace these two boards referred to in the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know when this Board is constituted, the existing Board would cease to function, and the members of that Board would be taken over on the Committee?

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Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is not a question of amalgamation, but one of substitution. The functions will be merged perhaps with some modifications, in those of the new Board, but the membership will not necessarily be the same.

TRADE WITH ITALY

*1039. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade letters have been exchanged between India and Italy; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the letters?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the letters exchanged have already been placed in the Library of the House.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know the amounts covered by the respective countries in this trade treaty?

Shri Karmarkar: The amounts have not been indicated here, but mention has been made of the different commodities, either for export or for import, as far as it relates to trade between these two countries.

Shri Velayudhan: According to this treaty, may I know whether salt is imported into India for Kashmir?

Shri Karmarkar: Firstly, Sir, there is no treaty as such. Regarding salt, I shall refer the hon. Member to the copy of the Agreement placed in the Library.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has stated that there is no treaty as such. It is only a question of agreement. So far as salt is concerned, the hon. Minister does not know about it at the moment.

Shri Karmarkar: So far as I see at the moment, salt is not one of the commodities.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether salt is imported from Italy into India, for the use of Kashmir?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Achuthan: Are not these things mentioned in the agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: The hon. Member may refer to the copy of the agreement placed in the Library.

MIXING OF CHICORY WITH COFFEE

*1040. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coffee powder is being mixed with chicory and this forms a large industry in South India; and

(b) whether any State has issued a ban on the mixing of chicory with coffee powder?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Madras Government issued a ban in January 1952; but they have since postponed giving effect to it till April 1953.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether chicory is very harmful, and if so why the ban on it has been suspended by the Madras Government?

Shri Karmarkar: The original idea of the Madras Government appears to have been to prevent the adulteration of coffee with chicory powder. Representations were made to us that chicory powder mixed with coffee has been usual with some people, and that there is no harm from that. The Government of India, for the time being, considered the matter and advised the Madras Government to lift the ban. And in response to this advice, the Madras Government have been good enough to defer their final decision on the ban till the date mentioned earlier.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether chicory powder has been examined in the Research Institutes, and if so, what are the good and injurious qualities found in the same?

Shri Karmarkar: With regard to the question whether it has been scientifically examined or not, I should like to have notice. But so far as the in-

formation available with me goes, chicory powder has not been considered to be injurious to health, by the medical profession. The mixing of chicory with coffee will also help to reduce prices etc.

GALVANISED STEEL SHEETS

*1041. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard for galvanized steel sheets formulated by the Indian Standards Institution are maintained by the manufacturing industry;

(b) whether the standard will apply both for the plain as well as corrugated sheets;

(c) the main items of the standard prescribed; and

(d) whether the price of sheets has increased or decreased in recent years?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main items of the standard are as follows:—

(i) Dimensions and Weights,

(ii) Limit of Zinc Coating,

(iii) Testing Requirements,

(iv) Provisions for Retesting and Rejection,

(v) Inspection and Testing Facilities, and

(vi) Test Certificate.

(d) Prices have increased.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the number and also the names of the manufacturing factories for galvanized sheets?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid this does not arise from the main question; so I should like to have notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know in how many cases, these manufacturers have been warned or punished?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what are the considerations that go into the distribution of galvanized steel sheets?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, the main question relates to the standards for these sheets. As regards the hon. Member's question, I should like to have notice.