

(b) There has been no conviction so far.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know what is the number of complaints received by the Chief Electoral Officer in each State and the Election Commission regarding the contravention of the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by the officers engaged in the elections?

Dr. Katju: I shall require notice.

Shri Dabhi: What is the name of the gentlemen in Bombay against whom proceedings were instituted?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the names should be given here as to who were proceeded against.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding the use of State cars by Ministers in certain States in the elections?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It will be a matter within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Election Commission.

Shri Velayudhan: Can we not ask about them in the Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Not anything and everything. (*Interruption from Shri Velayudhan.*)

He may have recourse according to law.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

*71. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American Engineer has been appointed for the Bhakra-Nangal project; and

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

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Presumably the hon. Member has in mind Mr. M. H. Slocum, who has been appointed as a Consultant for the Bhakra Nangal Project. If so, a copy of the agreement entered into by him with the Government of Punjab is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24.]

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this appointment has been made to remove any special difficulty that has now arisen in the working of the Bhakra Nangal project?

Shri Nanda: It has been made in view of the magnitude and complexity of the whole project.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any office has been set up for him in U.S.A. after his appointment?

Shri Nanda: Mr. Slocum had got it provided in the agreement that in order to recruit certain experts that might be required he would set up a small office.

Shri B. K. Das: Has it been set up?

Shri Nanda: I would require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if this particular appointment has the sanction of the Government of India and also how this particular person was selected—what was the machinery?

Shri Nanda: The Government of India is not concerned to that extent. There is a Control Board which can initiate such matters and finalize them. This is what happened in this case also. The matter was referred to the Government of India and it agreed.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the Government of India could not get an Indian engineer for this purpose?

Shri Nanda: They could not get an Indian engineer.

Shri Velayudhan: Was any advertisement made?

Mr. Speaker: There is no use going into these things. I am going to the next question.

Shri Velayudhan: He categorically said that they could not get an Indian engineer. Therefore...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member will not be called upon henceforth, if he persists in this way.

KOSI PROJECT

*72. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether and what final decision in regard to the Kosi-River Project has been taken by the Government of India; and

(b) when the work on the above Project is likely to be taken up?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: In view of the assurance given by the Prime Minister to the people of Bihar when he visited that State that Kosi project will be given top priority, may I know whether this consideration has been taken into account by the Planning Commission?

Shri Nanda: This will be taken into account by the Planning Commission when the Plan is being finalized in respect of the Second Part.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: In putting this Kosi project in the Second Part of the Plan has the fact that the Prime Minister assured the people of Bihar that this project will be given top priority been taken into consideration?

Shri Nanda: Apart from the assurance of the Prime Minister, the reports of experts themselves on this scheme assure us of its soundness and therefore it will receive very high priority with the Planning Commission on its own merits.

LOAN DUE FROM BURMA

*73. **Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of outstanding loan which is due to be repaid to India by Burma;

(b) when the next instalment is payable and what is the amount of the instalment;

(c) whether the Government of Burma has requested the Government of India to defer payment of the next instalment;

(d) whether it is a fact that a similar request was made by Burma to Great Britain, which was rejected; and

(e) whether the Government of India propose to grant further time for payment of the next instalment due from Burma?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) The amount due from Burma is Rs. 71 crores approximately, comprised of Rs. 65 crores separation debt, inclusive of interest and Rs. 5.75 crores on account of Burma's share of Central pensions.

(b), (c) and (e). The separation debt is repayable by equated half-yearly instalments on 31st March and 30th September each year. No payment has, however, been received since 31st March 1942. No payment has also been received after that date in respect of their share of pension payment.

Our Ambassador in Burma has been asked to request the Burma Govern-

ment to send their representatives to settle the question of these outstanding. No reply has yet been received.

(d) The Government of India are not aware of any request made by Burma to Great Britain and rejected by the U.K. Government.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Is it a fact that in the beginning of 1951, the Government of Burma requested the Government of India to grant them time for payment of the loan?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am not aware of the fact, Sir.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: When was this loan due to be fully paid?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Member sit down now?

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I request you to tell me what the Minister says in reply because it is very easy to hear you but we find the Ministers very indistinct.

Mr. Speaker: He need not make that kind of allegation. Because the hon. Member is standing and the hon. Minister finds himself unable to stand, according to rules. He should sit immediately after putting the question and then the hon. Minister will reply to him now.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: On separation the liability of Burma to India except in respect of Central pensions was consolidated into a debt of Rs. 50.8 crores repayable in 45 years with interest at 3½ per cent. by equated half-yearly instalments.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Was there any condition to the effect that if three successful instalments fall due and are not paid, the whole amount will at once be payable?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I want notice of the question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Now that for ten years the Government of Burma has not paid, may I know the methods proposed by the Government of India to realize the amount from the Government of Burma?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: As I said, we have already taken steps and in international relations the steps could only be a request addressed to the Government of Burma. In December 1951, as I said, the Ministry of External Affairs forwarded to our Ambassador in Burma an *Aide-memoire* for transmission to the Burma Government in regard to this debt.