

**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.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Nearly 6 months have elapsed since our Government asked our Ambassador in Burma to request the Government of Burma to attend to this affair and no reply has come. Therefore, I want to know what further steps the Government of India have taken.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** We have given some consideration to the preoccupation of Burma with her internal problems.

**Shri Dabhi:** What are the reasons given by Burma for not paying the loan?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** They have not given any reasons. It is easy to guess the reasons.

#### EXPORTS AND CUSTOMS REVENUE

\*74. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final customs revenue for 1951-52 has shown any surplus over the budgeted estimates for the year 1951-52; and

(b) if so, what is the surplus amount?

**The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi):** (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 74,84,43,000 (Seventy-four crores, eighty-four lakhs and forty-three thousand rupees).

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the chief items of exports which have increased the customs revenue?

**Shri Tyagi:** The chief items of imports that gave this surplus revenue were wine and liquor which count for Rs. 1 crore, Kerosene oil Rs. 1 crore, motor spirits Rs. 7.5 crores, automobiles Rs. 3 crores, dyes derived from coal tar Rs. 0.85 crore, machinery Rs. 1.5 crore, wood pulp, paper and stationery Rs. 1.6 crore, art silk, yarn and thread Rs. 4.8 crores, cycles and parts Rs. 1.65 crores and all other articles which have got no separate budget head Rs. 20 crores.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether India exports machinery and parts of cycles?

**Shri Tyagi:** I have talked about imports.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** I asked about exports.

**Shri Tyagi:** About exports jute gave us additional surplus of Rs. 23.33 crores, raw cotton and cotton waste Rs. 3

crores, cotton cloth Rs. 0.63 crore, manganese ore Rs. 1.07 crore, black pepper Rs. 1.31 crore and wool Rs. 1.5 crore, less Tea Rs. 1.00 crore and the total is Rs. 27.04 crores.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the reasons for earning more customs duty; whether more orders have increased the export duty?

**Shri Tyagi:** It is very difficult at the time of budgeting to budget with actual accuracy because the markets these days are not so regular and there are so many fluctuations that it is very difficult to anticipate. This year we had to resort to liberalized imports and then the international prices of articles imported varied a lot and the prices were raised with the result that the *ad valorem* duty rate also was raised and we got an additional revenue on that account. The same arguments apply in the case of exports.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know what is the total amount of revenue obtained by the export of pepper?

**Shri Tyagi:** I have not got the figures ready at hand, but I can supply the hon. Member if he wants to have it.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The hon. Minister stated that the duty from imported cars has gone up by over Rs. 5 crores. May I know whether the ceiling fixed for car imports was in any way relaxed or is it due to some other reason?

**Shri Tyagi:** Imports are regulated by means of licences issued and that always depends upon our foreign exchange position and the capacity to purchase and therefore, it varies according to our means.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** Is it a fact that our exports have been liberalized just to raise the revenues?

**Shri Tyagi:** Not to raise the revenue, but to get more foreign exchange.

#### HELP TO NEPAL

\*75. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to give financial help to Nepal in the shape of a loan; and

(b) if so, what is the exact amount and the condition of the loan?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). The Government of India have agreed, in