

the U.K. for training in open cast mining and operation of the machinery connected therewith were offered appointments as Temporary Assistant Engineers on the Hirakud Dam Project against vacant posts pending selection of suitable officers through the I.P.S.C. All of them are graduates in Civil, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering. During the course of their training in U.K. they have familiarised themselves in the handling and operation of different types of earth moving and other machinery at present used on the Hirakud Dam Project, and are otherwise fully qualified for the posts. Three candidates did not accept the offer and their appointment has since been cancelled. Six of them have joined at Hirakud. Replies from others are awaited.

MATERIALS FROM DISPOSALS FOR HIRAKUD

*860. **Dr. Natabar Pandey:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of materials ordered by the Stores Department of the Hirakud Dam Project from or through the Director of Disposals so far;

(b) whether a part of the materials referred to in part (a) above has been lost; and

(c) whether the stock position has been recently verified?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Mathi): (a) The total value of stores obtained from Disposals through the Director of Disposals from the beginning of the Project to date is Rs 154 lakhs approximately. These were received in lots or in numbers or by weights.

(b) and (c). Materials received since July 1950 have been verified and there is no loss. Materials received before July 1950 are still under verification.

DETENTION OF FOOD STUFF FOR TRI- PURA IN PAKISTAN

*861. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that East Pakistan Police detained food stuff booked for Tripura while in transit through East Pakistan at the Akheura Railway junction?

(b) What is the value of the commodities including food stuff so detained?

(c) Has any effort been made at Government level to secure release of the detained consignments?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):

(a) Goods for Tripura, including food-stuffs, were held up at the Pakistan check-post on Akhura-Agartala Road owing to refusal of that check-post to allow porters to carry them across to the Indian check-post without proper passports and visas.

(b) About Rs. 4 lacs.

(c) The Government of Pakistan were approached and it has been agreed that goods will be cleared by an equal number of Indian and Pakistan porters who will be given written authorisations for the purpose by responsible officials on both sides. This arrangement will be in force for two months, within which the porters are expected to obtain the requisite passports and visas.

(d) Does not arise.

DEPUTATION FROM CEYLON TEA PROPAGANDA BOARD

*862. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether a deputation from the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board made a special plea to Government to revise its recent decision to withdraw from the International Tea Market Expansion Board?

(b) Is it a fact that a promise was given for India's co-operation to the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board?

(c) What is the condition on which the promise has been given?

(d) Is it a fact that the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board has the controlling interest in the International Board?

(e) Is it a fact that it has decided to proceed with the four promotion campaigns in the U.K., the U.S.S.R., Egypt and South Africa through the International Tea Market Expansion Board?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It might be so, in view of India's withdrawal from the Board.

(e) Government have no information.