

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, whether there is a demand by the tea industry that further re-exports should be allowed also to America, to which it has not yet been allowed.

Shri T. T. Kriahnamachari: At the present moment, I do not think we have any understanding with the United Kingdom to limit their re-exports in regard to any country. I think they are free to do what they like.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In view of the fact that permission to re-export tea from the United Kingdom to other countries has not raised the prices and also in view of the fact that that permission has affected the Calcutta tea market by limiting its export area, will Government consider...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are making suggestions after suggestions. The Government will consider everything. But this is not the occasion for making suggestions.

RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS (INVESTIGATIONS)

*944. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to make a statement on the investigations which are being carried out in various States under the direction of the Central Water and Power Commission in connection with River Valley and Hydro Electric Projects?

(b) How many of these are nearing completion, which of these schemes for which investigations have been made will be taken in hand in the next two years and what is the nature of the financial arrangement between the States concerned and the Centre, as also the agency of execution of these Projects?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathri): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the importance of this question, it would be better if the hon. Minister just disclosed the names of the projects of which the investigations had been completed or were being carried on.

Shri Hathri: Yes, Sir. I will tell the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The statement has been laid?

Shri Hathri: The hon. Member wants to know the names of the various projects.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it a long statement?

Shri Hathri: It is not long. I can read it out.

(a) The following are the projects in various States on which investigations are being carried out by the C.W.P.C.:

- (1) Kosi Project in Bihar.
- (2) Narmada Projects (Tawa, Punasa and Broach) in Bombay and Madhya Pradesh.
- (3) Dihang and Manas Projects in Assam.
- (4) Mahanadi and Jonk Projects in Madhya Pradesh.
- (5) Ganga Barrage Project in West Bengal.
- (6) Tikkarpara and Naraj Dams Projects in Orissa.

(b) Investigations on the Sabarmati Project in Bombay and Harangi Project in Coorg have been completed and the Project Reports are under preparation. The investigations on the Kosi, Narmada (Tawa, Punasa and Broach), and Ganga Barrage Projects are nearing completion. As regards execution, financial arrangements, and agency execution, the position is as follows:—

Kosi Project: The investigations on this project were completed in June, 1950 and a Project Report was prepared. As a result of examination of this Report by an Advisory Committee, who recommended certain changes, further investigations were taken up. The Project has been accepted by the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Five Year Plan. The financial and technical responsibility of the Central Government, Government of Bihar and the Government of Nepal, the programme of construction and agency of execution have not yet been settled.

Ganga Barrage Project: As a result of investigations carried out so far, a Project report has been prepared and is under examination, in consultation with the Government of West Bengal and the Planning Commission. The various points referred to will be examined only after the Project has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Sabarmati Project, Harangi Project and Narmada Project: Further action on the various points can be taken only after the Project reports have been prepared and if, on the basis of the Project Reports, the Projects are found to be technically and financially feasible. It is not possible to give any definite information at this juncture.

Shri T. N. Singh: In reply to part (b) of the question, it has been stated here that the financial and technical responsibility of the Central Government, the Government of Bihar and the Government of Nepal about the programme of construction and agency of execution has not yet been settled. May I know if it is not a fact that there was some arrangement with the Government of Bihar regarding the allocation of expenses on this investigation?

Shri Hathji: On the question of investigation there was an arrangement. The question is about the execution of the project itself. That is yet not settled.

Shri T. N. Singh: The investigation, as I am told, Sir, will be charged to the project ultimately. Therefore, we would like to know why the arrangements regarding these expenses have not been disclosed to us so far, as they will be charged to the project.

Shri Hathji: The arrangement for the investigation was that 50 per cent. should be borne initially by the Government of Bihar and 50 per cent. by the Government of India subject to further adjustment. That was the original arrangement.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the meaning 'subject to further adjustment'?

Shri Hathji: It was to be adjusted later on.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it not a fact that the Finance Ministry has ruled that 'subject to further adjustment' only means that all other additional expenses will be charged to the provincial Government?

Shri Hathji: The Finance Ministry later on clarified that the remaining 50 per cent. will be charged to the Bihar Government.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: What has been the expenditure so far incurred for the Kosi project?

Shri Hathji: The total expenditure incurred on investigation upto August 1952 is Rs. 76,85,769.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: Has this been incurred wholly by the Central Government or a portion is borne by the State Government?

Shri Hathji: Initially by the Central Government, Sir.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether any river valley projects in Madras State have been included in this investigation?

Shri Hathji: No, Sir.

Shri C. Bhatt: From the answer given by the Deputy Minister we know...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not say he knows. What is the question?

Shri C. Bhatt: I am now lucky enough to catch your eye, Sir. I want to know that when the projects of Narmada are completed, will they be included in the first Five Year Plan or the second Five Year Plan?

Shri Hathji: As I said, Sir, the investigations on Narmada are nearing completion. Whether it will be included in the Five Year Plan or not, is not yet settled.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know, Sir, whether there are any rivers in Madras State for undertaking these projects?

Shri Hathji: The rivers can be looked at on the map.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Neither the question nor the answer need have been put. That is not the way the hon. Minister should answer.

Shri Hathji: Sorry, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that Kosi project has been included in the Five Year Plan, may I know whether any time limit has been fixed for the preparation of the project estimates?

Shri Hathji: No time limit has been fixed.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether there is any project under investigation anywhere in South India?

Shri Hathji: Sir, I have given the list.

Shri Ramaehandra Reddi: May I know, Sir, why the Krishna River Valley Development Project has not been taken up for investigation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The report itself has not been published.

Shri T. N. Singh: Sir, is it a fact that on the investigation of these various projects nearly a crore of rupees have been spent, 25 lakhs and odd on Madhya Pradesh projects, 64 lakhs or so on Kosi project etc., and is it also true that with regard to the allocation of this expenditure the Government have not yet come to any arrangement and that some States want to be absolved of any financial responsibility in this matter?

Shri Hathji: Regarding the first question as to what is the total amount of expenditure, I would

require notice. I can only reply to the other question after I look into the papers.

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of order, Sir. We find that these irrigation and planning questions have been coming off and on and the hon. Minister concerned has never been present in this House for the last so many days. So it is very difficult to get accurate and full information. May we request you, Sir, to at least direct that the hon. Minister should find time to be present, because this relates also to the Planning Commission and irrigation and all sorts of things?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): May I submit, Sir...

Shri T. N. Singh: Is he the hon. Minister in charge of Irrigation, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister is entitled to speak on the floor of the House.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I submit, Sir, my colleague is now engaged in giving the finishing touches to the Plan. He could hardly come out. Therefore, if some of the hon. Members feel that they are in any way slighted, we would like to apologise to them. But, certainly we feel that the Deputy Minister is quite competent to answer the questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understand such questions are really very important. A number of schemes have been undertaken. Each of the schemes costs, even in the investigation stage, crores of rupees and, of course, when they are going to be executed they will cost many more crores. These questions can get not only one hour but a number of hours. Under these circumstances they must be split up. Each project should be taken up and thrashed threadbare. Now, I understand that the Planning Committee Report will be presented to the House on the 8th. Three days will be allowed for its discussion. Under these circumstances, hon. Members will kindly read the report and then come forward and discuss them on the floor of the House. I therefore defer further questions to that day. Certainly, during the discussion of the Planning Committee Report, the hon. Minister will be here; but I do not assume that the hon. Deputy Minister does not know as much as the hon. Minister.

Shri T. N. Singh: One procedural matter, Sir. A statement was said to have been made in reply to this question. The question was covering all kinds of investigation and projects and

so I thought that the statement would contain various details. It is a small thing and but for the insistence of some hon. Members it would not have been read in reply to the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister read out a long statement. I did not look into that statement. If all this information was available he could have put it in that statement.

Shri Hathl: What I read was the same thing, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is available to all the Members. What is the difficulty?

Shri T. N. Singh: Sir, I thought this information will be laid on the Table and would contain various details about various projects. Instead of that a summarised thing giving in general what is happening there was read out. It was laid on the Table so that our colleagues here in the House could not follow what the answer was.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Questions which involve long answers are necessarily and naturally not read out in the House in reply for one question will take the whole time. Of course, we will see that as many details as are expected to be asked in a question are provided in the answer and that the documents are available to the Members.

Shri B. Das: Sir, I speak on the point of order raised by Mr. T. N. Singh. It is expected of every Minister who is a Member of this House to be present at Question hour. If you look into the proceedings of this House, the Planning and Irrigation Minister is never present in this House. It is an insult to the House and to the Members of this House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think there is anything in this point of order. The hon. Minister is sufficiently well represented by his Deputy who is sitting here in flesh and blood. This question might have been raised when there was no other Minister dealing with the matter and assisting the principal Minister. When there are Deputies here it is intended that they must assist their principals. As between the original Minister and his Deputy this House ought not to make any difference. If, on the other hand, the Deputy Minister says that he must ask his principal Minister, then this can arise. But he is quite confident that he can answer all these questions. We need not go into that matter now. There is no point of order.