

FINANCIAL ADVISER TO D.V.C.

*155. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General has in the case of Damodar Valley Corporation, reported that as the Financial Adviser appointed by the Government of India is subordinate to the Corporation there was great difficulty in any effective financial control being exercised?

(b) What steps have Government taken in the matter?

(c) Have they issued any direction to the Corporation under section 48 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). No Sir; but on their own initiative, the Government of India have examined this question and have since posted a Senior Officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service as the Financial Adviser of the Corporation. There is also a convention established with the D.V.C. that whenever there is a difference of opinion between the Financial Adviser and the Corporation, the Financial Adviser should report the matter to the Government of India under intimation to the D.V.C. and ask for a decision.

(c) No, Sir.

ABDUCTED WOMEN

*156. **Shri D. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the total number of abducted women recovered from India and Pakistan since the conclusion of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of April, 1950?

(b) Is it a fact that even those women who do not want to go to Pakistan but come under the definition of "abducted women" are handed over to Pakistan authorities?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Indo-Pakistan Agreement of April 1950 was applicable to the two Bengals only.

The total number of abducted persons recovered since April 1950 is as follows:-

From Pakistan (East and West) upto 15th October ...	2032
(Of these 50 were from East Pakistan and the rest from West Pakistan).	
From India upto 10th of June. ...	3802

There were no recoveries from West Bengal.

Recovery work in India was stopped after 10th June, 1952, as a result of the Punjab High Court's judgement. Since then the Supreme Court decided otherwise and recovery work has been re-started

(b) No.

CULTIVATION OF DESERT AREAS

*157. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been made to cultivate the desert areas; and

(b) whether scientists have been sent to Jerusalem to attend the International Symposium on deserts?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Scientific and technical problems involved in bringing desert areas under cultivation have been engaging the attention of Research workers in this country and efforts are being made to find satisfactory solutions to these problems.

(b) On an invitation received from the Research Council of Israel, an Officer of the Central Water and Power Commission attended the International Symposium on Desert Research at Jerusalem from the 7th to the 14th of May, 1952.

INTERNATIONAL TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD

*158. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the reasons that led to the withdrawal of India from the International Tea Market Expansion Board?

(b) What was the composition of this Board and how many persons were representing India?

(c) Were all those who represented India from private companies or were there Government officials also?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): As regards parts (b) and (c) of the Question, I place a statement on the Table of the House giving the information asked for by the hon. Member. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 35].

As regards part (a), instead of just stating the reasons, I would like to explain the position more fully to remove any misunderstanding about India's withdrawal from the International Tea Market Expansion Board.

It is to be remembered that the ITMEB was established in 1935 in a

different context and with a different political outlook. The intention was to boost the Empire teas without coming into conflict with non-Empire teas such as Java teas, and without stimulating any interest in the countries producing the teas. While with this limited objective before them, the ITMEB did good work, there is no doubt that this mode of approach is now outdated. Again, U.K. has been a tea drinking country for a long time. The United States of America where it is urgently necessary that Indian tea should be sold with a view to earn the much-needed dollars is on the other hand not a tea drinking country, and yet in both these countries the propaganda followed the same lines. Indian interests have, therefore, felt for a long time that any inhibition on the sale of Indian teas as such should be removed, and having regard to the present difficulties experienced by the Indian Tea Industry, propaganda to be undertaken on behalf of the Indian tea should be completely re-oriented. It was, therefore, necessary that we should withdraw from the ITMEB with the least possible delay, and India has now terminated its membership of the Board. I may make it clear that in doing so there is not the slightest intention of carrying on a cut-throat competition against other teas. Where necessary, we are prepared to cooperate fully with other tea producing countries in order to meet an onslaught from other competing beverages. We are also fully prepared to cooperate with trade interests in carrying out the propaganda for Indian teas. In this connection, I am glad to inform the House that we have received an offer of cooperation from the Tea interests in the United States. We have gladly accepted that offer, and are examining at present how best we could participate in joint tea propaganda with trade interests. A senior officer of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is at present looking with the questions, both in the U.K. and the U.S.A., and this will be followed up, if necessary, by the deputation of another senior officer later on. We would also be glad to give all possible assistance to any delegation that the tea trade in this country may think of sending to the U.K. and the U.S.A. to examine these and allied questions with a view to foster sale of Indian teas.

COMPLAINT FROM NEPAL

*159. **Shri M. E. Krishna:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaint from the Nepal Government alleging that the Government of India

are supporting certain parties which are trying to weaken the Nepal Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): No such complaint has been received by Government.

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*160. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set apart any amount for making a survey of the economic condition of displaced persons staying in Sindhu Nagar or what are called Kalyan Camps in Bombay State;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what agency is appointed or will be appointed to make the survey and what are or will be its terms of reference;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, have Government considered the desirability of making such a survey and if so, with what result and if not, why not;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Conference of representatives of displaced persons staying in refugee townships and colonies held in Bombay on the 31st August, 1952 passed a resolution demanding an economic and social survey of displaced persons in the Bombay State and the said resolution has been communicated to the Minister; and

(e) whether that resolution has been considered and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(c) and (e). The Government of India have under consideration the question of making a socio-economic survey of displaced persons.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

*161. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rehabilitation Ministry appointed some officer or any other agency to survey the economic condition of displaced persons from West Pakistan resettled in East Punjab and if so, what was the nature of the agency and what were its terms of reference;

(b) whether it is a fact that a report was submitted to the Government by that agency; and