

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not as part of the present scheme.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know if the scheme includes housing for the workers in Bokharo?

Sardar Swaran Singh: If they come under the definition of industrial workers.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: They are industrial workers.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether in this scheme the hon. Minister has incorporated the housing schemes under the colliery and mica welfare funds?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Government have not incorporated any scheme under any other funds. But, such of the industrial workers as come within the purview of the present scheme, in whatever sphere they are working, will be protected by the scheme and financial aid will be given.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether applications have been received and examined and allotments made to the several State Governments and organised societies?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Various schemes have been received. They are being scrutinised. Sanctions have already been issued in certain cases and others are being examined. It is hoped that sanctions in other cases will also be issued.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any financial target has been fixed for the coming financial year and if so what is the allocation that will be made to the States?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid it is premature yet to say what is going to be allotted for the next financial year.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What steps do Government propose to take for associating the trade unions in this Industrial Housing scheme, so that this subsidised scheme may not turn out to be a subsidised fraud?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether this scheme includes the possibility of the workers getting the houses in their own names at any stage?

Mr. Speaker: Ownership?

Shri Nambiar: Yes?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually, the co-operative societies of the workers

can themselves qualify for financial aid. As to whether ownership in the tenements which are actually constructed by the State Governments passes on to the industrial workers, that is not part of the present scheme.

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that Government propose to introduce a measure like the National Housing Bill. May I know the time by which it is expected to introduce the Bill?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Not during the Current session.

GANGA BARRAGE

*251. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolution passed by the West Bengal Assembly in its Budget Session regarding the urgent necessity of implementing the Ganga-Barrage Scheme; and

(b) the steps taken in that behalf?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes.

(b) The subject is under consideration.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this scheme is being examined as part of river schemes or as a general development scheme?

Shri Hathi: It is being examined as part of a general development scheme.

Shri B. K. Das: What is the estimated cost of this scheme?

Shri Hathi: The estimate is about 39 crores.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the Government is examining this present estimate of 39 or 40 crores as a loan to the State Government or whether part of it will be a loan and part a grant?

Shri Hathi: I am not in a position to say that.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: Is it not a fact that the Hooghly Expert Committee as also a Committee of the CWINC specially appointed for the purpose expressed their considered opinion that adequate supply of water to the Calcutta port could not be assured unless highland waters were tapped?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: May I also know if the Planning Commission approached the Government of West Bengal with any proposal for making any contribution pending payment by other parties such as the Railways and national highways, and if so, with what result?

Shri Hathi: So far as the West Bengal Government is concerned, the Government of India have asked them as to how they propose to finance the scheme.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has proposed that the sum of Rs. 5 crores that is likely to be required for the first three years would be contributed by the West Bengal Government and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India?

Shri Hathi: I have no information like that.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the large influx of refugees from East Bengal and the importance of the scheme, does the Government propose to give top priority to it?

Shri Hathi: That, Sir, will be determined after the scheme is examined completely.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the North-Eastern Railway also has suggested that the barrage on the Ganges near about Farakka would be necessary and useful, to shorten the route between Lower Bengal and northern Bengal and Assam?

Shri Hathi: In fact, Sir, the views of the Ministry of Railways have been invited on this.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: I wanted to know from the hon. Minister definitely whether it is not a fact that the West Bengal Government has offered to give a contribution?

Mr. Speaker: Order order. He may contradict his facts later.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: I am not contradicting. I am asking if it is not a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has made a definite proposal for making a contribution of the sum required for the first three years, pending payment by other agencies such as the Railways and national highways?

Shri Hathi: I would require notice for that.

COAL

*252. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal over and above that required for railway consumption can meet the demands for public consumption in important cities of India?

(b) whether there are sufficient wagons available to distribute coal to various parts of India; and

(c) what are the conditions of agreement to export coal to Pakistan after June 1952?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) Wagon supply is inadequate during about 8 months in the year.

(c) The validity of the Trade agreement of February 1951 was extended upto the 7th August, 1952. Coal exports were continued to Pakistan at the previously fixed prices, viz. the Indian control price plus Rs. 11/- per ton. Coal is not included in the current Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement which came into force on the 8th August, 1952 but the Government have consented outside the agreement to the export of coal to Pakistan at the rate of about 90,000 tons a month upto the end of December 1952 when the position will be reviewed. The present price has been revised, on a consideration of the market prices outside India, to the Indian price plus Rs. 12-10-0 per ton.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, if the Government has any scheme to nationalise the coal industry?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir. Not at present.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, how many collieries are in the hands of private concerns?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I should like to have notice to answer that question.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, the price of coal in India generally?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is the controlled price. I am not in a position to give the controlled price now here.

Shri Raghuramiah: May I know whether the amount of coal supplied to Madras State for tobacco purposes this year, is the same or less or more than that supplied last year?