

(b) the extent to which such demands of Government are met by handloom (mill-yarn) cloth; and

(c) whether Government have consulted the Handloom Board about the possibility of securing more handloom cloth to meet more of Government's requirements?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 12.]

(c) Yes, Sir. The Handloom Board are consulted periodically.

Dr. Rama Rao: The statement shows that pagree cloth to the extent of 17 lakh yards cannot be supplied by handloom. Am I to understand that all the beautiful turbans which are usually of handloom cloth are not suitable for the Government?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I cannot give any categorical reply to it. It depends upon the various qualities and the requirements. In all cases beautiful things are not always the requirements of the Government; sometimes we require utility articles.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know if the Government had received any representation from the co-operative societies in places like Madras and Andhra to say that, given samples and order they are prepared to manufacture several varieties of handloom cloth suitable even for the military excluding certain special varieties?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know which particular representation is in the mind of the Hon. Member. But, it is a fact that from time to time co-operative societies of handloom weavers and handloom weavers individually or through their associations have been representing that they can manufacture articles according to the specifications. It is also the intention of the Government that the capacity should be tapped and they should be encouraged to weave cloth according to the requirements of the Government.

Dr. Rama Rao: Have Government given any sample order for a few articles?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid this is too general a question. If any particular item could be specified, then I would be able to give a reply.

LOW-INCOME GROUP HOUSING SCHEME

***2134. Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) whether any loans for acquisition and development of land to be sold to intending builders under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme have been granted to any of the State Governments so far; and

(b) if so, the amount of loans given year-wise and state-wise?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). A statement showing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 13.]

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know when and on what basis the loan allocation mentioned in column 2 was made?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Based on an assessment of the requirements of each State.

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know the time at which the allocation was made?

Sardar Swaran Singh: This was made some time towards the end of February last.

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know who has fixed the targets mentioned in column 3 and for what period they are meant?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have actually indicated the period for which this allocation has been made, in the statement itself. And the target was decided, as I have already said, by assessing the requirements of each State.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether the price of the lands sold to the builders will be higher than the

price given for acquisition, or will it be lower than the price given for acquisition?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid that question has got nothing to do with this. The intention is that when the Central Government advances loans to the State Governments for the purpose of developing land, then the loan is advanced at a somewhat concessional rate of interest, and the intention is that the State Governments or the statutory authority undertaking the development should be able to sell those plots to the prospective builders at a no-loss no-profit basis.

HIRAKUD AND DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECTS

*2135. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what arrangements are being contemplated to utilize intact the services of the engineers and other staff who will be released from Hirakud and Damodar Valley Projects on their completion?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The matter is receiving the earnest attention of Government. This is one of the terms of reference to the Technical Personnel Committee appointed by Government. The Committee's report is awaited.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know whether this includes engineers and technicians with special experience in mechanised concreting operations?

Shri Hathi: There might be some persons also experienced in concreting.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What will be the number of engineers, civil, mechanical and electrical, who will be surplus in these two projects on their completion?

Shri Hathi: In fact this is one of the terms of reference to the Committee. They are collecting data and the report is awaited shortly.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether these officers have been confirmed after probation?

Shri Hathi: As the House knows, the officers of the D.V.C. are officers of the Corporation. In the Hirakud Project some are permanent, some are temporary.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know whether any planning has been started for the second phase of development of the Damodar Valley Corporation and, if so, if these officers who are going to be discharged will find a place there?

Shri Hathi: The whole question of how to absorb, the trained and experienced personnel is receiving the attention of the Government and for that purpose this Committee has been appointed. It will take into consideration the projects that are likely to be taken up for the coming fifteen years and will make recommendations.

RADIO ACTIVITY

*2138. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cloud-borne radio activity caused by the blast of a nuclear weapon in Nevada (U.S.A.) recently has reached certain parts of India;

(b) if so, in which parts of India the effect of such radio activity has been felt; and

(c) whether the effect of this radio activity has, in any way, affected the living beings in this country?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government have no information.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of India is aware of the report that came out in several papers that the radio activity appeared to have increased over the Allahabad area?