

part of the steel plant and this would have its repercussion on the coal industry. In view of that, do Government propose to expedite this enquiry ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari : I do not see how this enquiry has any effect on the prices as they are prevailing now. The retail prices fixed have no bearing on the retention prices at all, because of the very large margin between the retention prices and the retail prices. Even assuming that the Tariff Commission recommends an increase and assuming that the Government accept that increase, the retail prices will not be affected.

Rural Electrification

*276. **Shri S. C. Samanta** : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether any master plan for rural electrification has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the scheme will be completed during the First Five Year Plan and how much money has been allotted for it;

(d) whether the State Governments will bear a share of expenditure or the Central Government will advance the whole amount as loan; and

(e) the rural electrification schemes taken up by different State Governments either by themselves or with the help of the Central Government up to now ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, Annexure 24].

Shri S. C. Samanta : In the statement it is said that during the first plan period, the Central Government have sanctioned loans for small town and rural electrification schemes in the various States for a total sum of Rs. 20.67 crores. May I know whether during the Second Five Year Plan period, allotment for rural and small town electrification will be made separately or an overall grant will be made ?

Shri Hathi : The various State Governments have in their plans made claims for various amounts for rural electrification. The total figure of all such claims comes to about Rs. 50 crores.

Shri S. C. Samanta : According to the rural electrification programme in West Bengal, I find that there is no place for Tamruk; may I know whether it has been sanctioned ?

Shri Hathi : That is for the consideration of the State Government. They propose various schemes for which loan is to be granted.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether the West Bengal Government have applied for the sanction of this scheme and if so what decision has been taken on that ?

Shri Hathi : I remember to have received a communication from the West Bengal Government. That was in connection perhaps with the acquisition of that power station.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether the earnings from the various electricity undertakings in the States are being utilised for rural electrification ? If so, may I have the figures for the various States under this head ?

Shri Hathi : As far as the electricity boards are concerned, all the earnings should be ploughed back to that industry. That is the idea. We have not got yet the figures of the profits from the various State Governments.

Shri Joachim Alva : Has Government taken a correct appraisal of the role of Jog waterfalls in Bombay and is Government aware that nearby towns which are hardly ten miles away from the Jog waterfalls are going abegging for electricity ?

Shri Hathi : That comes within the purview of the Bombay State Government.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Question 284 also may be taken along with this.

Shri Heda : I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker : The two Questions may be taken together.

SALT

*278. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the Regional Boards set up in the Salt producing areas have made their recommendations to the Central Board regarding the utilization of the proceeds of the Salt Cess ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : Not yet.

The first meeting of a Regional Board—that for Saurashtra and Kutch—took place on 17th November and others are programmed to take place in the coming two months.

Salt Cess

*284. **Shri Heda** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the total Salt cess collected so far;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the research stations out of this cess fund; and

(c) how the balance of the amount has been spent?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) The total collection since 1947 upto the end of September 1955 was Rs. 692.74 lakhs.

(b) No separate figures of expenditure on Research Stations is available.

(c) The cess collections are credited to General Revenues, and all expenditure on the Salt Organisation, maintenance and development of salt works, model farms, test laboratories, etc. is met out of the General Revenues.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know how the proceeds of the salt cess are being utilised at present?

Shri K. C. Reddy : The proceeds from the salt cess are utilised to meet the expenditure of the Salt organisation and the development of the salt, industry, broadly speaking.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know if there is any proposal to levy a tax on salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy : No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know why other Regional Boards are not meeting?

Shri K. C. Reddy : These Boards were constituted in October this year and they have been meeting one after the other.

Shri Heda : To what extent has the amount collected from salt cess was been spent and if the amount has not been spent, may I know whether it lapses or whether it is used for the next year?

Shri K. C. Reddy : The present procedure is that the proceeds of the salt cess are credited to the general revenues and the expenditure also is met from general revenues. No separate fund for salt cess collected has been decided upon. We are discussing this with the Finance Ministry.

River Valley Projects

*279. **Shri L. N. Mishra** : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government receive regular returns from the various river valley projects of the country giving lists of equipments and machinery surplus to their requirements; and

(b) if so, whether equipments and machinery thus spared are given to others who require them?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl) : (a) and (b) The Central Water and Power Commission who had been entrusted with the responsibilities of Coordinating work in this regard, was experiencing considerable difficulties in obtaining lists of surplus equipment from the various project authorities. The matter was brought to the notice of the coordination Board of Ministers at the Board's meeting held in October last and then taken up with the States at Ministers' level. We have received their assurance for a quick supply of information. In the meantime returns have been received from some of the major projects and the surplus equipment detailed therein have been offered to other projects. Arrangements have been made to circulate to projects needing equipment or of surplus lists as and when they are received.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether the Government has got a list of machineries and equipment which are surplus in the various projects and the machinery required in other projects?

Shri Hathl : We have now the lists from major projects and some other projects also giving the surplus machinery with them and also the list of machinery required by other projects.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether some of the projects have taken objection to the utilisation of the surplus machinery on the ground of transfer costs?

Shri Hathl : They have not actually taken objection about the cost; but sometimes they object on the ground that the machinery is rather old and they would like to go in for new machinery. But wherever the question of cost would arise, the Central Government would decide it.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether the surplus machinery in Durgapur barrage is expected to be utilised somewhere else?

Shri Hathl : About 7 pieces of machinery—I have got the list with me—have been selected for the Kosi Project from the D.V.C.