

from Damodar has caused great difficulties to the people of Asansol due to lack of adequate alternate arrangement for the supply of drinking water in that town; and

(b) whether the Municipal authorities of Asansol have requested the Damodar Valley Corporation authorities to release water?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The present shortage of water supply at Asansol is due to the scanty rainfall during the last year which was only 35 inches as against the normal rainfall of 55 inches. It cannot be said to be due to the stoppage of water by the Damodar Valley Corporation.

(b) A request from the Asansol Municipality was received by the DVC through the Govt. of West Bengal. The Corporation have accordingly agreed to release 150 cusecs of water daily from the Konar dam to enable the Asansol municipality and other consumers here-by to meet their requirements.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know when the request has been made to the Government and whether it has been acceded to and when?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Yes, Sir. The request has been acceded to and the release of 150 cusecs of water daily from the Konar dam has already been ordered.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: At what time?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I cannot give the date.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know what is the charge for the supply of this water that Government intend to realise from the Asansol Municipality?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The rates have not yet been determined. All that would depend upon negotiations between the D.V.C. and the municipality.

Dr. Rama Rao: Are we to understand from the Minister's reply that Asansol is getting water today.

Shri S. N. Mishra: I think so.

ATOMIC REACTORS

*2304. **Dr. J. N. Parekh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Reactors have been offered to India by Foreign powers;

(b) when and how they are proposed to be used and utilised;

(c) what plans have been chalked out for the peaceful uses of Atomic Energy in the field of Industry, Power Generation, Agriculture and Medicine in India; and

(d) what steps are taken to train the technicians in foreign countries for implementing the above plans?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 2 of the Summary Report for 1955-56 of the Department of Atomic Energy. Canada's offer of an atomic reactor has been accepted and the necessary agreement was signed on the 28th of April, 1956.

(c) India's atomic energy programme is aimed at the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Radioactive isotopes which are being used increasingly in industry, medicine and agriculture in India are at present being imported from abroad but will be produced in India as soon as the Indian atomic reactors are ready. As regards power generation, the economic aspects of setting up atomic power stations in India are at present under study by this Department.

(d) India is in close collaboration with foreign countries in the field of atomic research and the necessary personnel required for its programme have been sent from time to time to foreign countries for training.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: May I know whether radioactive isotopes produced from the reactor in Trombay will be sufficient to meet India's requirements and may I also know in what priority these isotopes will be given from Trombay for the use of industry, agriculture and medicine?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As soon as our new reactor is ready, it will make isotopes. The quantity will go on increasing. It is very difficult to say whether it will supply all our needs. Our needs will go on increasing too. Obviously, if we give all of them to our hospitals or agricultural operations, we want an enormous quantity. But, our supply will increase. The simple swimming pool reactor which we are making will probably be ready in about a month or six weeks or two months time. The other and much bigger one which is the Indo-Canadian reactor, a much more powerful one, that would take a year or two more. But, isotopes will be produced from the swimming pool reactor and much more so by the other.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know whether we will be able to process uranium from Ilmenite and monazite with the help of these reactors?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All these processes are going to be done here. Of course, they are going to be processed here in various ways: not so much the question of reactors, but other processes too.

Shri Kamath: Arising out of answers to parts (c) and (d) of the question, is the Prime Minister in a position to tell the House whether the nations or countries of the world with whom India has got close consultation and, perhaps, co-ordination in this matter, are very rapidly switching over to the development of atomic energy for peaceful uses rather than for destructive purposes?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Does the hon. Member wish me to answer this question in regard to all the countries of the world?

Shri Kamath: Countries with whom we are in close consultation, and contact.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are in contact in regard to this matter to some extent with every country. That is, the scientists and not the Government of India as such, maintain contact. There was a conference in Geneva

last year presided over by a distinguished Indian scientist where many of the countries of the world were represented except, unfortunately, much to our regret, some important countries like China. So that, in fact, our scientists maintain contact with almost every country. Naturally, the contacts are much more intimate with some countries where there is much work and less intimate with others. There is no country left out of the sphere of contact. Every country now talks about the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. But, if atomic energy is produced, it can be used for other purposes also with a little change or with a little preparation.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: When is India likely to get the other reactors and where are they likely to be installed?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, as I said, the swimming pool reactor will, I hope, begin functioning within two months. The other one, the big Canadian one is also under construction. It is proposed to have more reactors afterwards. This process will continue.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*2306. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Travancore-Cochin had sent any proposal for the relief of the chronic and growing unemployment in the Ambalapuzha and Shertallai Taluks of the State; and

(b) if so, what are those proposals?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Except for the schemes submitted to the Study Group on Educated Unemployed which relate to the State as a whole, no proposal for the relief of the general problem of unemployment in the Ambalapuzha and Shertallai Taluks has been received.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what action the Government of India has taken on a memo submitted to the hon.