

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

265. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation has undertaken to supply drinking water in the town of Hazaribagh from the Chharwa Bandh and if so, the date fixed or agreed upon to begin the supply;

(b) whether the Chharwa Bandh has been completed in every possible way and if so, the total cost; and

(c) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation is going to undertake other project or projects as commercial concerns and if so, what are they?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) The Damodar Valley Corporation undertook the construction of Chharwa Dam at the request of the Government of Bihar. This dam is intended for the supply of drinking water to the town of Hazaribagh and will also irrigate some land. No date was fixed or agreed upon to begin the supply of water. The laying out of pipes for water supply will be done by the Government of Bihar.

(b) The dam has been completed. The total cost which is entirely borne by the Government of Bihar is about Rs. 5 lakhs.

(c) The Corporation has agreed to construct small irrigation works in the upper valley provided the Government of Bihar bear the entire cost.

A. I. R.

266. **Shri C. E. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the number of the editorial staff in the A.I.R. in 1948 and now, the number of correspondents and the centres where they were stationed in 1948 and now?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 31.]

ARTISTES UNDER CONTRACT WITH A.I.R.

267. **Shri C. E. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) how many artistes are at present under contract in the various stations of the A.I.R.;

(b) the minimum qualifications prescribed for and the method of their recruitment;

(c) their scales of pay and allowances and their increments;

(d) whether the artistes are given preference when vacancies arise in the regular cadre and if not, why not; and

(e) whether the permanent staff artistes of the Madras Station (AIR) submitted a Memorandum to the Minister on the 7th May, 1951 and if so, what action has been taken on it?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Information is presumably required in respect of staff artistes who are engaged on contract at the various Stations of AIR; the total number of such staff artistes at present is 704.

(b) No minimum qualifications are prescribed for staff artistes. Casual artistes who are found proficient in and show aptitude for the particular work required of them are appointed staff artistes by the Director General, All India Radio, on the recommendation of Station Directors.

(c) There are no uniform scales of pay, allowances or increments as applicable to staff artistes. The monthly remuneration of a staff artist is fixed after taking into account such relevant factors as merit, suitability and general availability of talent. Increments are given not as a matter of course but on the basis of a staff artist's work.

(d) Recruitment to posts in regular cadres is made according to the prescribed procedure which provides for the consideration of all eligible candidates.

(e) A memorandum by staff artistes of the Madras Station was submitted to the Minister on 7th July 1951. The decisions of Government regarding points raised therein were conveyed to Station Director, Madras, for the information of signatories to the Memorandum.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

268. **Shri Badshah Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the five items of export during 1948-49 and 1951-52 that earned for India the largest amount of foreign exchange; and

(b) the five items of import that drained India's foreign exchange to the largest extent during the said periods?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Jute yarn and manufactures; tea; cotton yarn and manufactures; hides and skins, tanned or dressed, and leather; and spices.