

and Cooch-Bihar) are being ravaged every year by unprecedented floods and consequent damage to highroads, railway, vast tracts of agricultural fields and also loss of cattle and human lives;

(b) the approximate loss or damage suffered by the Central Government, the State Government of West Bengal and the general public every year on account of such floods; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take in the matter by investigating the causes thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION ENQUIRY COMMISSION

557. Shri N. P. Sinha: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation Enquiry Commission set up by the Government of India to enquire into the affairs of the Corporation has completed its work;

(b) if so, what places it visited and on what dates; and

(c) whether it has submitted any report?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

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

THUMB IMPRESSIONS ON PAY ROLLS OF STAFF AT HIRAKUD

558. Shri R. N. S. Deo: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Anti-malaria Department of the Hirakud Dam Project, many members of the staff, who are literate and can sign their names are asked to give their thumb impressions in vouchers of payment of monthly salaries;

(b) whether the thumb impression of the same member of the staff varies from one month to the other in the vouchers of payment in the monthly salaries; and

(c) whether the attention of the authorities has been drawn to the above anomalies and if so, has the matter been enquired into?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The matter is under enquiry.

(c) Yes.

SYNTHETIC PETROL MANUFACTURE IN ORISSA

559. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plant has been installed in Orissa to manufacture synthetic petrol from coal etc;

(b) whether any loan or subsidy has been given for the purpose; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what progress has been made so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A sum of £50,000 (approximately Rs. 6.66,000) was advanced to Shri B. Patnaik as loan by the Government of Orissa in 1948 for conducting preliminary investigations in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN ORISSA

560. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the number of community projects started in the State of Orissa;

(b) the estimated expenditure of each project;

(c) the number of officers appointed and labourers employed so far;

(d) the expenditure incurred since the start of the projects; and

(e) the progress so far made towards the implementation of the projects?

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

(b) Rs. 65 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Survey of the project areas has been completed and Budget estimates have been approved. Inoculation of cattle, construction of drains, roads, culverts, dug-hole latrines have also been undertaken. Improved varieties of wheat, field peas, chemical manures, etc. have been distributed. A beginning has also been made with reclamation work.