

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh):** (a) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) have approached the Lt. Governor, Delhi with a proposal that such frozen lands in Delhi as are not required immediately for the execution of any scheme might be allowed to be cultivated on temporary basis.

(b) Government has so far taken over possession of 25,000 acres of land. Out of this, 24,000 acres have been allotted to various agencies. The remaining land is green according to the Master Plan and proposals for putting it under cultivation are under consideration.

#### **Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in Income-Tax Department**

**3300. Shri B. S. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Income-tax Department, Judicial and Executive functions are exercised by the same authority, viz., the Commissioner of Income-tax;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax are under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Income-tax; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint separate Judicial and Executive authorities with a view to insure equitable justice?

**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai):** (a) No, Sir. The Commissioner of Income-tax is the executive head of the Department. He exercises judicial functions only to the extent mentioned in the Act, for example he exercise judicial functions in disposing of revision petitions.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No Sir. The law already provides for an appeal to the Appellate Assistant Commissioner against the order of the Income-tax Officer and for an appeal to the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal against the order of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner. The Appellate Assistant Commissioners have complete freedom in the exercise of their appellate functions and neither the Commissioner nor the Central Board of Direct Taxes has any power to interfere in such matters. The Income-tax Appellate Tribunal is an independent judicial body under the Ministry of Law.

#### **Panashi Dam**

**3301. Shri B. S. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some preliminary work was started for the construction of Panashi Dam in Santhal Paraganas in the First Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been no further progress on that project; and

(c) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to complete that project?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Project report on Panashi Dam Scheme on river Ajoy (Santhal Paraganas) was received in March, 1967 and is under technical examination. The project has not yet been approved.

#### **Taking over of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam**

**3302. Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have made any request to the Government of India to

take over Nagarjuna Sagar Project over the Krishna as centrally-sponsored project; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the Nagarjuna Sagar Project as central project?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

**Contract with S.N.A.M. of Italy for Exploration of Oil**

3303. **Shri S. Kundu:**  
**Shri K. P. Singh Deo:**  
**Shri Nath Pal:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**  
**Shri Srinibas Misra:**

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had entered into any contracts with M/s SNAM of the E.N.I. Group of Italy for drilling and exploration of oil wells in India;

(b) if so, the amount involved by way of foreign exchange and in terms of Indian currency in these contracts; and

(c) the number of oil wells drilled under the contracts, the places where drilled and the results of such drilling operations?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghunath Ramalingam):** (a) The ONGC entered into two contracts with SNAM Spa for inland drilling and one for offshore drilling in the Gulf of Cambay.

(b) Under the two contracts for inland drilling, the following payments were made:—

<i>Foreign Exchange</i>	<i>Rupees</i>
\$85,94,712.00	1,36,69,838.00

The contract for off-shore drilling provided for payments of \$4.999 million in foreign exchange and Rs. 27

lakhs in Indian currency. But no expenditure was incurred, as the contract was finally cancelled.

(c) Under the first two contracts, four wells were drilled in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, but no accumulation of oil or gas was met with in these wells. However, valuable sub-surface geological information was obtained which will facilitate the future study of the oil gas prospects of this vast region. Work under the third contract for off-shore drilling could not be taken up for the reason given above.

**Foreign Exchange for Idikki Hydro-Electric Project**

3304. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**  
**Shri C. Janardhanan:**  
**Shri P. C. Adichan:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Idikki Hydro-Electric Project requires some additional foreign exchange in addition to the Canadian assistance, for getting tools and equipment;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange needed for the same; and

(c) if so, steps taken to meet the additional requirement of foreign exchange?

**The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Kerala Electricity Board is preparing the estimate of additional foreign exchange required for the purpose. Necessary steps for meeting this requirement will be taken on receipt of the estimate from the Board.

**Central Assistance to Orissa**

3305. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the Orissa Government out of Rupees 86.