

(ख) १९५४-५५ और १९५५-५६ में इस प्रयोजन के लिये सम्बन्धित राज्यों द्वारा मांगे गये ऋणों की राशि और अभी तक बँचूर किये गये ऋणों की राशियाँ क्या हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 44.]

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In pursuance of the recommendations of the Ford Foundation Team in respect of the State Governments and Central Government I want to know whether decisions have been taken or not?

Shri Kanungo: As far as the Central Government is concerned, decisions are being taken and they have been published.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want to know what is the total sum earmarked for this purpose?

Shri Kanungo: Rs. 135 lakhs.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: As laid down in the statement, the demand by the State Governments was for Rs. 88,40 lakhs in 1954-55 but the amount sanctioned was only Rs. 57.91 lakhs. I want to know why all the amount requested for by the State Governments was not sanctioned?

Shri Kanungo: They were mostly demands for loans. It all depends upon so many things: there were schemes and schemes which did not conform to the conditions. Therefore they have not been sanctioned.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether any demand or request for loan has been received from the Uttar Pradesh Government?

Shri Kanungo: No.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): Question No. 977 and question No. 989 are on the same subject. If you permit me, I might take them together.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

*977. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the value of actual shortage revealed in the stocks of raw materials in the Sindri Fertilizer Factory at the close of the financial year 1953-54 and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): The value of the actual shortages revealed in the stocks of raw materials at the end of the year 1953-54 was as follows:

Coke.....260 tons valued at Rs. 10,353.

Gypsum.....8,849 tons valued at Rs. 3,05,916.

These represent 0.2 per cent. and 2.09 per cent., respectively, of the total receipts and are not abnormal. The causes which led to these shortages are:

(a) bedding down of dumps; and

(b) loss in transit and due to windage and handling.

SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

*989. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Sindri Fertilisers Factory to make a thorough inquiry into the causes of shortages in stock of the factory has submitted its report:

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) the action taken to prevent such shortages in future?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 45.]

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know when the first check of the stocks of the raw materials purchased for the factory was done?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As hon. Members know, the assets of the old Fertilisers Project, Sindri, were transferred on the 16th January, 1952, to a private limited company known as the Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals, Ltd., a body registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913. The first annual verification of the stock of raw materials was conducted at the end of the accounting period 31st March, 1953, which disclosed these shortages. They cover the entire period since the factory started actually working.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any enquiry was made by any officer as regards the comparative effect of such a shortage, and whether such a shortage is possible or is happening in other factories in foreign countries so far as these materials are concerned?

Sardar Swaran Singh: As I have said, and as also indicated in the statement a copy of which has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to the other question which was also answered by me just now along with question No. 977, a Committee was constituted. It went into the entire question and it found that the estimate of the shortfall was not quite correct scientifically and statistically. So far as comparison with similar factories in other countries was concerned, that is not necessary and it has not been undertaken.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: In the statement, it is said that a scientific re-verification was done. What is this scientific re-verification?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Actually, an attempt has been made to explain it somewhat in the statement itself. The scientific verification obviously is scientific re-verification, and if I give any explanation of it, I will be simply translating it which is hardly necessary, because, this expression itself is quite a good one and a precise one.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know the reason why this Committee could not meet?

Sardar Swaran Singh: One of the reasons was that one of the members was a representative of the Auditor-General, and the latter thought that in view of the statutory obligations which rest upon himself, it was not in the fitness of things that he should nominate a representative. This was the main reason why the Committee could not function.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Who was this expert who whitewashed the whole affair?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Does he want the name of the expert?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Sardar Swaran Singh: He is Mr. Bensen Gyles.

Dr. N. B. Khare: This is colour-washing.

PEPPER

*978. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 5 on the 23rd August, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to assure fair prices to the pepper growers for the pepper produce; and

(b) what is the effect of the reduction in export duty given effect to from the 12th May, 1954?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) A Spices Enquiry Committee was set up to investigate into the production and marketing of some of the important dollar earning crops of India including pepper, and on the recommendation of the Committee, Government are preparing Schemes in consultation with the State Governments concerned to develop the production of pepper on scientific lines, to reduce its cost of production and to increase the margin of profit to the growers. Government are also considering, in consultation with the trade interests concerned, a scheme for setting up an Export Promotion Council for pepper.