

Rs. 13 lakhs have been earmarked for 1953. Rs. 123 lakhs in 1954 and Rs. 250 lakhs in 1955-56. Still there is a balance.

Shri Bogawati: May I know if the Government is going to take more steps to protect scarcity areas in the Second Plan and whether attempts would be made to that effect?

Shri Hathi: Hon. Member may kindly refer to the letter which I referred to in the main reply. The programme for scarcity affected areas would receive due consideration.

Monozite Sand

*2020. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the results of research in processing thorium as fissionable material from Monazite sand; and

(b) the expert advice, if any got from foreign scientists?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The factory at Alway set up by the Indian Rare Earths Limited treats the monzite to produce rare earth compounds and trisodium phosphate. The residue is treated at the Uranium/Thorium plant set up by the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy at Trombay to produce Thorium and Uranium compounds. The stage of producing pure thorium and uranium will be attained after further technological research.

(b) Thorium is a fertile material from which U 233 which is fissionable can be made. Thorium as such is not fissionable. We have at present undertaken Research and Experimental Reactors only. Breeder Reactors are required to make U 233 from Thorium and these Reactors have not yet been undertaken in India. The question of obtaining foreign assistance in this matter, therefore, does not arise at present.

Shri Kamath: After the recent atomic conference at Geneva, has there been any relaxation in the secrecy adopted by various countries in this respect—in atomic research.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. A great deal of material that was previously considered secret was disclosed there. But of course a great deal still remains which is secret.

Second Five Year Plan

*2023. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the West Bengal Gov-

ernment recently discussed the details of their Second Five Year Plan with the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the Plan submitted by the West Bengal Government has been approved; and

(c) if not, the alterations, that have been made?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (c) The draft plan of the West Bengal Government was discussed with the Planning Commission and the Ministries on the 19th and the 20th September. In the light of the discussion the West Bengal Government will revise its draft plan.

Shri N. B. Choudhury: May I know whether reduction of the targets and the amounts in the Plan by the Planning Commission after widespread publicity about higher targets and higher amounts has created a sense of frustration in the minds of people?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I could not get the import of that question.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): So far as the West Bengal Government's plan is concerned—which is the subject matter of the question—there is no such apprehension.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether one item of river valley projects—the Kosi project which was in their proposal has been accepted and whether Government have asked the concerned State Government to go ahead with the scheme from now?

Shri Nanda: These are still in the stage of discussions and really nothing has crystallised in the sense that there is any finality about these things.

International Tea Agreement

*2025. **Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred Question No. 744 on the 16th August 1955 and state:

(a) the date when the old International Tea Agreement expired; and

(b) in what respect the fresh Agreement will differ from the old one?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmakar): (a) 31st March 1955.

(b) The renewal of the International Tea Agreement is still under negotiation.

Shri Barman: Which are the parties involved in this agreement?