

1958-59:

According to the new procedure, grants to State Governments for implementation of their schemes are given as "ways and means advances" by the Ministry of Finance Three-fourths of the total amount is to be released in this way in nine equal monthly instalments beginning from May, 1958. The final sanction is to be issued in February, 1959.

Examination Systems

251. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Balmiki:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a probe will be conducted into the existing examination system at the University level and the secondary education stage with the assistance of a foreign authority on examination reform,

(b) if so, the foreign authority who has been invited by the Council of Secondary Education; and

(c) when the probe is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Dr Benjamin S Bloom, Head of the Board of Examiners, Chicago University

(c) It is anticipated at present that the work will be completed in about three years

Adult Schools in Delhi

252. Shri Radha Raman: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adult schools that exist in Delhi and the amount of grant paid to them during 1956 to 1958 so far;

(b) the number of students studying in these schools and the standard obtained by them;

(c) whether their number is going to be increased in future; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No 95.]

Fire in Offices of Scholarships Division at Daryaganj, Delhi

253. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Balmiki:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Shivananajappa:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in the offices of the Scholarships Division at Daryaganj, Delhi on the 12th June, 1958;

(b) if so, the extent of damage to Government properties and the nature of records destroyed,

(c) the causes of the fire,

(d) whether any enquiry committee was appointed to ascertain the causes of the fire; and

(e) the action taken to reconstruct the destroyed files?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 96.]

Neyveli Lignite Project

254. { Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shri Oza:
Shri Damani:
Shri Tangamani:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of the Thermal Plant, Fertiliser Project and mining work of the

Integrated Neyveli Lignite Project is not according to schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) the steps taken to prevent any further delay,

(d) whether any changes in the estimates and phasing of the Project are contemplated, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c) The position is as follows —

According to the original time-schedule, lignite was expected to be exposed for mining by the middle of 1960 and full production (35 million tons per annum) achieved by December 1960. This schedule however, got somewhat retarded as a result of the postponement of the dates of delivery quoted at the time of preliminary enquiries by the suppliers in Germany for certain items of specialised mining machinery. Besides, these suppliers also found that the underground strata at Neyveli were harder than those met with in lignite mines elsewhere and they had, therefore, to redesign the specialised mining equipment particularly Bucket Wheel Excavators. In order to offset the effect of the delay at least partially, additional conventional mining machinery has been put into operation for the removal of overburden.

Another reason for the retardation of the original time schedule is the delay that has crept in unavoidably with regard to the estimated dates of completion of the consumer units of the Integrated Project. Under the original schedule for the thermal power station, orders for equipment were to have been placed in July, 1957, and the power station commissioned by December, 1960. It was decided subsequently, in view of the foreign exchange difficulties, to set up the thermal power station under the Soviet 500 million rouble credit. According to the revised target date, production of thermal power will

commence between January and March, 1961 and full production achieved by December, 1961.

The Government of India sanctioned the fertilizer scheme at Neyveli, at an estimated cost of Rs 21 crores, subject to adequate foreign credit being available in respect of its foreign exchange requirements. According to the earlier time-schedule, tenders for the machinery required were to have been issued in July, 1957. In view of the decision to produce only Urea instead of double-salt, and since the scheme was dependent on the availability of foreign credit and suitable credit terms had to be determined for incorporation in the tender notice, the notice could be issued only in May, 1958. According to the present schedule, production of Urea is to commence by December, 1961.

In view of the above considerations and the overriding factor that the mining scheme must synchronise with the completion of the consuming units—lignite being of a spontaneously combustible nature—a revised time-schedule has been drawn up for the mining scheme, providing for full production to be reached by December, 1961. The progress of work on the project with reference to the revised time schedule is satisfactory.

(d) and (e) The changes in the phasing of the Project viz the time-schedule and the reasons therefor have been explained in the foregoing paras.

With regard to the changes in the estimates it may be stated that the estimated cost of the mining scheme is likely to increase owing to the general increase in steel prices as also labour costs in the countries manufacturing the specialised and conventional types of mining equipment required for this scheme and for the following additional reasons:

The original estimate was formulated on the basis of preliminary information obtained from various manufacturers of the specialised mining equipment. As, however, the dates of

delivery actually quoted by the suppliers of the specialised mining machinery got extended, additional mining equipment of the conventional type had to be put into operation in order partially to offset the delay. Additional expenditure also had to be incurred on account of preparation of the ground and use of explosives to carry out blasting operations before that equipment could effectively be used. In order to tackle the hard strata at Neyveli, the specialised mining machinery had to be redesigned. The exact cost of the equipment for ground water control is also not yet known, as the tests for determining the best method of drilling to be adopted for ground water control have not been completed. The cost of providing quarters for mining personnel has also increased. These factors will affect the overall cost of the mining scheme. The exact increase in the cost is being worked out.

Any increase or otherwise in the cost of the thermal plant and the fertilizer scheme will be known only after the Russians have given their project report in the former case, and the world suppliers have tendered in the case of the latter.

A decision regarding the Briquetting and Carbonising scheme will be taken after the successful completion of the tests on the Neyveli lignite currently being conducted at Neyveli, with the help of the Pilot Briquetting and Carbonising Plant procured under T.C.M. Aid. The exact cost of the scheme will be known only when the project report is drawn up after the completion of these tests.

The general increase in the cost of material and labour will also result in enhancing the individual costs of the thermal power, the fertilizer and the briquetting and carbonising schemes.

Central Advisory Board for Harijans

255. Shri B. C. Mullaik: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board for Harijans has been reconstituted for the year 1958-59; and

(b) if so, who are the members of the Board State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Resolution issued in this connection is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 97]

Scheduled Tribes in Machkund Area

256. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for the colonization of the scheduled tribes in the Machkund area of the Koraput District (Orissa) has been sanctioned by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the scheme, and

(c) when the scheme will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) to (c). There is no scheme for the colonisation of Scheduled Tribes in Machkund area. A combined resettlement and welfare scheme has, however, been sanctioned by the State Government for the colonisation of displaced persons of the Machkund Hydro Electric Project elsewhere. The estimated cost of the scheme is as follows:—

1956-57	Rs. 5,11,945
1957-58	Rs. 10,75,000
1958-59	Rs. 40,000