

Gazette & Debates Section
Parliamentary Department
Room No. 111
Block 1
Acc. No. 25434
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LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, 7th May, 1955

*The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten
of the Clock*

[*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

10-36 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPLIES TO MEMORANDA OF MEMBERS
TO DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1955-1956—
RAILWAYS

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of certain statements containing replies to certain memoranda received from Members in connection with Demands for Grants, 1955-56—Railway [See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 21].

MEMORANDA TO POINTS RAISED DURING
BUDGET DEBATE ON IRRIGATION AND
POWER PROJECTS

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum giving information on the points raised during the Budget Debate not covered by the Minister's reply and certain other important points relating to Irrigation and Power Projects. [See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 22.]

**STATEMENT TO PROGRESS OF ACTION
TAKEN ON IRREGULARITIES IN
HIRAKUD PROJECT**

Shri Hathi: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement show-

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ing the progress of action on cases of alleged financial, accounting and other irregularities, including those of a criminal nature, on the Hirakud Dam Project. [See Appendix XIII, annexure No. 23.]

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION**

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Reference supplementaries to the Starred Question No. 1750 answered in Lok Sabha on the 31st March, 1955.

The following reply was given to the supplementary question asked by Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:

"Government are not at present considering the question. But here there is a class of persons known as 'regular temporary establishment'. There we have a certain seniority. That means a certain class of temporary government servants are entitled to appear."

The correct position is that such of the persons of the Regular Temporary Establishment of Assistants who are confirmed in Grade IV of the Central Secretariat Service with effect from the 1st January, 1954 and have seniority in the grade of Assistant or in equivalent grades from a date earlier than the 1st January, 1951, are eligible to sit for the ensuing Limited Competitive Examination for promotion to the Regular Temporary Establishment of Assistant Superintendents. The condition of being permanent in Grade IV has, however, been waived in the cases of permanent

[Shri Datar]

displaced Government servants and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Why was there this delay of more than a month in making this correction or rectification?

Shri Datar: Sir, the correction had been found out and it had been checked and therefore this time was taken.

STATEMENT RE TEXTILE MILLS IN PONDICHERRY

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I would like to make a statement in regard to the position of the textile mills in Pondicherry. The position is as follows:

There are three textile mills in Pondicherry, namely, Bharathi, Savana and Rodier Mills. These mills have been producing cloth mainly for the requirements of the French African territories and, therefore, are equipped for the production only of certain special varieties of textiles not readily saleable in India or in India's traditional export markets. The work-load and the scales of wages in Pondicherry mills vary as compared to Indian mills. They have besides a pension system for their workers. All these factors go to increase their cost of production. The Pondicherry mills therefore find it difficult to find markets for their products. Savana and Bharathi mills have nearly stopped production, and the Rodier mills have cut down their production by about 50 per cent. The Government of India appreciate the difficulties arising out of such closing down or reduction of production.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India by the Pondicherry Administration and steps were taken to find out if we could, with the help of the French

Government, secure the extension of the concessions in African markets for the Pondicherry textiles for a further period of at least 6 months. Unfortunately, no favourable response has been received from the French Government and we have been given to understand that there is no possibility of the French Government agreeing to any special concessions in favour of Pondicherry textiles for imports into French African territories.

We have been anxious to find other solutions to this rather serious problem. Two officers from the Textile Commissioner's Office visited Pondicherry about two weeks ago and have made certain recommendations which are being considered. The main factor is the high cost of production and difficulty of finding markets at competitive rates. The mill managements find it difficult to reduce the cost of production unless there is some increase in the work-load and some reduction in the pension liability, and there is resistance from the workers in regard to both these factors. While fuller inquiries into the issues raised by the managements and the workers will take some time, the Government of India is anxious to see that these mills continue their production, particularly as that affects the welfare of the workers employed therein. With this consideration in view, the Government of India has certain special measures under consideration. These are:

(1) to allow export of yarn on a liberal basis;

(2) the Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply to examine the possibilities of placing some special orders with the Pondicherry mills to help them in continuing their production;

(3) similarly, the Central Board of Revenue is considering the question of exemption from export duty on the textile products of Pondicherry mills which is likely to promote production and export from Pondicherry mills.