

#### CORRECTION OF ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, with your permission, I wish to make a correction to reply given by me on the 16th March, 1955 to part (b) of Starred Question No. 1088 by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh. I stated earlier that the concreting work on Bhakra Dam was likely to be started in June, 1955. The correct answer to part (b) should be "During November, 1955".

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I ask on a point of information, was any attempt made to ascertain who was responsible for the wrong statement?

Shri Hathi: Enquiries were made and it was learnt that the work was to commence in November and not in June.

Shri Kamath: Who was responsible.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is no occasion for a discussion on that point.

#### SITUATION IN GOA

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg leave, Sir, to make a statement in regard to the situation in Goa.

This House and all our countrymen are deeply interested in the problem of the Portuguese enclaves in India. Because of this and the importance of the problem, I have from time to time kept this House informed of developments there and of the policy that Government was pursuing. On the 4th of May last, in a statement in the Lok Sabha, I expressed our concern at some recent developments in Goa which indicated a deepening of the crisis there. During the past two months, there have been further grave developments which have caused anxiety and aroused intense feeling throughout India as well as in Goa.

I should like to remind the House that the struggle of the Goans for freedom and for integration with the Union of India is not a new develop-

ment. It dates back a considerable time. More particularly, in 1946, the prospect of India becoming independent soon naturally brought hope to the Goans, and they made an attempt to free themselves. This attempt failed. Ever since then, there has been a continuing agitation in Goa, and many Goan patriots have suffered because of this. Eminent citizens have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment or deported. Even an expression of opinion in favour of integration with India or a verbal protest has led to imprisonment, loss of civil rights and sometimes deportation. There is a complete absence of civil rights in Goa, and the normal methods of constitutional agitation are forbidden and suppressed. Nevertheless, the movement for Goan freedom from Portuguese rule has continued. The Portuguese Government has often stated that there is no political movement inside Goa. This is a manifestly wrong statement.

About a year ago, the agitation in Goa became more vigorous and demonstrative. This led to greater repression by the Portuguese authorities. A new turn was given to the movement then by Goans within Goa as well as outside performing some form of satyagraha. This was largely confined to Goans though, occasionally, non-Goans also participated.

Government was anxious that this problem should be settled peacefully and if possible by negotiations with the Portuguese Government. This was the policy Government had adopted both in regard to the French settlements and the Portuguese settlements in India. As the House knows, this policy met with success in regard to the French settlements and an agreement was arrived at with the French Government. In regard to Goa, however, the Portuguese Government have consistently refused to have negotiations or even to discuss this matter. On some occasions, the Government of India's notes addressed to the Portuguese Government have not been accepted by them. Nevertheless, it was the firm policy of Government to pursue peaceful methods only.