

THE
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(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday 27th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3-8 P.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri Sibnarayan Singh Mahapatra:

"Due to my continual illness and under medical advice I could not attend any of the sittings of the House.

I most respectfully seek kind permission of the House to remain absent from the meetings of the House till the end of the present session."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Sibnarayan Singh Mahapatra for remaining absent from all the meetings of the House during this Session?

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Leave was granted.

Dr. Natabar Pandey (Sambalpur): On a point of order, Sir. You received the letter from Mr. Mahapatra after the expiry of 60 days of his absence.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is true that this was received after 60 days. Is it the pleasure of the House to condone that period also?

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

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Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was not brought to my notice. Otherwise, I would have put it also as part of the request to the House.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF SLEEPERS FOR THE HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report relating to the purchase of sleepers from the Punjab for the Hirakud Dam Project, referred to in reply to Starred Question No. 404, asked on the 18th November, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. IV. M. 4(35).]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up discussion of Demands relating to Planning and Irrigation and Power.

So far as Irrigation and Power is concerned the following Demands are to be moved:

Demands Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 129 and 130.

I am told that there is no separate Demand relating to Planning and the provision for the Planning Commission is included in Demand No. 38 relating to Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance.

I shall therefore place Demand No. 38 also before the House so as to enable Members to raise discussion on Planning.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

This Demand will, however, be submitted to the vote of the House along with other Demands for which the Ministry of Finance is responsible on the 7th April, 1953.

I shall now place these Demands formally before the House.

DEMAND NO. 38—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,81,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending in the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance'."

DEMAND NO. 61—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 62—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 63—MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,12,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,48,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND NO. 130—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

Mal-administration and loopholes in the contract system

Shri Sivamurthi Swami (Kushtagi): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Working of the planning administration and the manner in which the plans are made out and executed

Shri Meghnad Saha (Calcutta—North-West): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Employment of foreigners in the multipurpose river valley schemes

Shri R. N. S. Deo (Kalahandi—Bolangir): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Necessity of starting small irrigation works in permanently famine-affected areas especially in Solapur and other Districts in Maharashtra

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Embankment, Navigation and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Wastage and corruption in the execution of Multipurpose River Schemes

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Investigation of Gandikota and Nandi Konda projects on river Kistra

Shri C. R. Chowdary (Narasaraopet): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Urgency of fully developing the Ghataprabha Project and Koyana to irrigate the scarcity and famine areas of Bijapur, Belgaum, Solapur, Satara and other areas of Maharashtra

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Slow progress of multipurpose river schemes

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Administration and working of different multipurpose river schemes

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Growing employment of foreign experts and also the growth of foreigners in these schemes

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Inefficient and haphazard planning of multi-purpose projects and the wastage, corruption and nepotism in the execution thereof

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Nepotism and favouritism in the Central Water and Power Commission

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Corruption, nepotism, financial irregularities, delays, wastage and unco-ordinated planning in Hirakud Project

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sixth Report of Public Accounts Committee 1952-53 (Hirakud Project)

Shri R. N. S. Deo: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Economy

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Growing expenditure on River Schemes already taken in hand

Shri Meghnad Saha: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Construction of a new canal to divert the River Cauvery for irrigation, from Mohanoor

Shri Boovaraghasamy (Perambalur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Extension of electric supply

Shri Boovaraghasamy: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the Demands and the cut motions are now before the House for discussion.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): May I make a brief statement regarding the report of the Public Accounts Committee?

The Public Accounts Committee placed their report on the Hirakud Dam Project on the Table of the House on March, 25, 1953. I was not aware then that this would be done on the eve of the debate on the Budget Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. The report is a comprehensive document extending over 66 pages of typed matter and it has not been possible for me in the short time at my disposal to study in detail the entire ground covered by it. But, as many questions covered by the report were already under active consideration I am in a position to announce the decisions of Government on the various recommendations made by the Committee. The decisions are embodied in the appended statement which I am placing on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. IV. O.O.(60a).*] It will be seen that we have accepted 16 recommendations out of 22 made by the Committee in full and a part of the recommendation which relates to the bifurcation of the functions of the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer. The rest of the recommendations are receiving consideration.

I am grateful to the Sub-Committee of the Public Accounts Committee for the thoroughness with which they have discharged the task entrusted to them. In doing so they have simplified my work. But, I should like to make it clear that the acceptance of many of the recommendations of the Committee does not imply that I have accepted or concurred in all the statements made in the report. A fuller examination is necessary before I can form a definite opinion on individual statements affecting the project or the officers connected with the project. As regards the accounting procedure on the Hirakud Project about whose suitability there has been a difference of opinion between the Executive and Finance, I am glad to inform the House that the

Comptroller and Auditor General has agreed to visit Hirakud shortly for an 'on the spot' study of the working of the system and his advice after such study will be accepted and given effect to by the Government.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: It will facilitate discussion, if the recommendations that have been accepted by the Government are enumerated on the floor of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a long list. I will ask copies to be circulated.

Shri Nanda: They are all here, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Said, the hon. Minister said that the report was placed on the Table of the House only on the eve of the discussion. It was not so. It was placed on the Table of the House two days before. It was so said by the Minister in order to.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not discuss that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I say this as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee. We have given sufficient time to the hon. Members to study. To say otherwise is a mistake.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even then, the hon. Minister thinks he had no time to study. He wants more than a week. Let us not discuss this matter.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would not have submitted this had it not been for the fact that he has tried to create an impression that we deliberately submitted this report to deprive the hon. Members.....

Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri T. N. Singh: (Banaras Dist.—East): I think that is not the intention of the hon. Minister at all in making that statement. Nor did he say like that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not discuss this matter.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: (Hoshiarpur): The report raises many controversial issues. An hour should be set apart for discussing that report.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Mr. S. V. Ramaswami will now speak.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami (Salem): The present Budget is set within the framework of the Five-Year Plan and therefore all the encomiums that have been paid to the Five-Year Plan apply with equal force to this Budget. I take this opportunity of joining in the chorus of praise that was given to the Five-Year

Plan. Those Chapters particularly which deal with Irrigation and Power are really magnificent Chapters. If only the Ministry of Irrigation and Power could put it through with energy and drive and achieve what it has set for itself in the Five-Year Plan, it will indeed be a very great day for our country.

But that is not to say that the Plan is fully satisfactory or that there is no lacuna in it. It is now my purpose to point out a few lacunae and suggest certain remedies. A cry has been raised in Madras; that is a cry of distress. We have heard that and I wish to bring it to the notice of this House. With your permission, Sir, I shall read out a few sentences from the speech of the Chief Minister of Madras in the Legislative Assembly there. He said:

"Every one knows only too well that the National Plan so far as we are concerned, has been completely upset on the resources side. Every one knows also that large tracts of our State are suffering from acute distress not only in regard to water but in regard specially to purchasing power to carry it through. Not only the agricultural classes, but every class is affected on account of the situation. It is not right to limit the use of the terms famine and drought only in respect of farmers. Every section of our society which is mainly and fundamentally agricultural, is affected by the agricultural situation. And our difficulties are very great.

Proceeding further, the Chief Minister said,

"I only wish to say this generally that we have to get funds from the Central Government. The Central Government tell us that they cannot find funds for every State which is in a condition more or less similar to ours and that they have their own limitations. Therefore we have to consider how we can operate on the Central Government in order to overcome our difficulties and how to answer the objections they raise."

Only one passage more, Sir, with your permission.

"The Chief Minister, explaining why he wanted a strong expression in the House about the need for help from the Centre said, that they were dealing with a Centre which was distant."

I submit that the situation in Madras is really very acute. For six continuous seasons, monsoons have failed. I do

not say that any Government is responsible. Nature is against us. Unfortunately, when the monsoon failed, it set about a cycle of distress which we have had to overcome. When the monsoons failed, not merely did the food situation of that part of the country become difficult, but also, it affected adversely the industrial potential of that part of our country. With the failure of monsoons, our hydro-electric systems failed also. There is power cut in some places to the tune of 75 per cent., and most of the mills in Coimbatore are idle for a considerable time. With this power cut machines are idle, and along with that, men are also idle. They receive less wages; their purchasing power goes down, and they are unable to make both ends meet: Consequently, they are also unable to pay taxes. This is the cycle of events that we are facing in Madras. Speaking of power, therefore, it is very unfortunate that because monsoon fails in a particular area, the factories in that area should be shut down or closed or temporarily locked up. I submit that even though we have a well-knit Madras grid which was functioning very well so long as the monsoons were in order, it has failed us because the Papanasam, the Moyur and the other systems inter-linked had too failed, and therefore, the industrial potential of that area had to fail also. Now, I am submitting to the Ministry whether they could not think of an all-India grid. I am putting forth this suggestion in all seriousness. We must link up the entire electrical energy system of this country from Kashmir to Cape Comorin, so that, should there be failure of rains or monsoons in any particular area, the electrical energy that is put out in another area should come forward to supply that area which is suffering from a deficiency. That, I submit, is possible. That is possible provided we do not think in terms of administrative States. That is possible if we think on national lines. The power from Bakhra-Nangal must be available at Cape Comorin. My submission is this. It is true there are technical difficulties. In high voltage transmission, there is a loss of power, no doubt, but I am posing a problem to the National Physical Laboratory which is now tinkering with sun cookers. It should be possible for the National Physical Laboratory—I am a lay man, I am not a scientist, but this much I suggest that it should be possible for the National Physical Laboratory to invent an apparatus by which there could be a beam wireless transmission of high tension power. If only they could find out such an apparatus, it would be equally a magnificent contribution to the unity of this country, so that, instead of depending upon foreign countries for copper wire and all the neces-

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]

sary material for the transmission of electrical energy, we can set up these beam transmissions at convenient places, so that we can transmit power from one station to another without the necessity of depending upon foreign countries for copper wire etc.

I submit one other point as well. It is unfortunate that the Centre has not paid attention to the lignite in South Arcot. It is true that they have lent some machine for a five-year plan. I submit that it is not enough, because, unless we quarry lignite, we cannot have more thermal stations, and I submit the imperative necessity that exists for thermal stations in Madras State can be met only by utilizing the lignite deposits in South Arcot. It will not merely help to start more thermal stations and provide more power for industries in the South it will, at the same time, have a revolutionary effect upon the economy of Madras which, with due deference to you, Sir, I submit, has been much neglected. Instead of depending entirely on monsoons and the rains in the Coorg ranges, we should be able to compensate the need for power with the help of these thermal stations. I urge upon the Ministry to go to the help of the Madras Ministry with greater funds, so that the lignite of South Arcot could be extracted within a reasonable length of time and so that also Madras can be started on a further industrial career. In this connection, I would also submit that there is a fall in my district within 30 or 40 miles of Mettur Dam, and that is at Hogenakkal. I submit the Planning Commission should investigate and take that also into consideration, and if possible, set about starting a hydro-electric plant at Hogenakkal.

I come next to irrigation. From the Five-Year Plan I can see that the Godavari has got 84 million acre feet of water of which about 14 per cent. is utilised. The Krishna has 15 million acre feet of which approximately 18 per cent. are used. The Cauvery has got twelve million acre feet, but of this system, more than 60 per cent. is utilized. My friends from Andhra might say why I am talking of Godavari and Krishna. I know. I anticipate it. There is a point. If we think on State lines, of course a Madrasi cannot think of Krishna and Godavari, but luckily the Planning Commission has taken a very broad view, a national view, and with your permission, Sir, I may read a few sentences from their report:

".....the development schemes of different States have to be co-ordinated to achieve maximum results. Water stored in reservoir in

one State may have to irrigate areas in others and power generated in one State is consumed in others. Finally, large projects require financial outlays beyond the resources of the States and cannot be undertaken without assistance from the Centre."

'And also there is another passage.

"Practically all the major rivers of India flow through more than one State. The policy of the Central Government is that the waters of the rivers should be put to the best possible use irrespective of State boundaries. Accordingly, the Central Government is concerting measures to ensure that every river valley is exploited jointly by the States concerned."

It is in that view of the matter that I submit that the Krishna-Pennar Project ought to be given preference so that the waters of Krishna and Pennar are utilised and are made available for Madras State which has now got to depend only upon the Cauvery which is drying up. It would be a great day when the Godavari is linked up with Krishna, and Krishna with Pennar and the waters of these two rivers are taken to Madras State also.

There is one other point. I am one of those who believe that the amount allotted to minor irrigation works is not considerable and it ought to be more. Even according to the figures supplied in the Five Year Plan, for an outlay of Rs. 400 crores, for major irrigation projects, only eight million acres are brought into cultivation. And according to their own estimate, for an outlay of Rs. 77 crores on minor irrigation projects, about 11.5 million acres are brought into cultivation. If that is so, I urge that it stands to reason to provide more funds for minor irrigation works rather than for major ones. I am not saying thereby that major irrigation works are not worthwhile, they are fully worth, and they are magnificent things. But at the same time, I am submitting that more funds should be allotted to minor irrigation works.

For instance, there are five investigated schemes for minor irrigation projects in my own district of Salem, but all of them are held up for want of funds. If only the Centre had found more money for these minor irrigation projects, I am sure, at least one scheme in Salem could have been taken up. There are many such schemes. So far as Madras is concerned, I submit that every drop of water is precious. I would request the Ministry to consider allotting more funds for minor irrigation works in Madras State, so that

every drop of water could be conserved and utilised for the purpose for which it is meant.

✓ **Shri Meghnad Saha:** We have got the Five Year Plan now in operation for about three years. After two years, we adopted the principles. At that time, we were faced with a large amount of material, or as an hon. Member said, with a veritable *maha-bharata* and it was not possible for us to go through it very carefully. But now after a few months, it has been possible for us to go through it very carefully and find out what it means, and how it has worked. I shall give you some of my findings.

According to this Five Year Plan, the *per capita* income of the average Indian, which is now Rs. 236 will rise to Rs. 472 in 25 years, in terms of the present rupee. This is on the supposition that the population remains constant and the future Indians do not breed any babies. But if the population does not remain constant, but increases at the present rate, it will be about 54 crores by 1977. And the *per capita* income will be only Rs. 315. This is barely 30 per cent. increase in 27 years in our *per capita* income. Now, these figures tell us stories which nothing else can tell. Let us compare these with the *per capita* income in other countries. The *Eastern Economist* has published a statement of the *per capita* income of some of the countries. The *per capita* income in the United States of America is 1413 dollars, which is 30 times the income of the average Indian at the present time. In Great Britain, it is about 20 times, and I need not give you the other figures. India, of course, is at the very bottom. Our planners attach very little importance to these little points. We all know that our poverty has been due to British domination, and we had not been able to take advantage of science and technology. But are we going to do so in the present Five Year Plan also? Let us see that. If even after 30 years, the difference in the standard of living between an average Indian and an Englishman remains 20 or 30 times as great as it is now, you cannot call it a Plan. Let us see what a great national leader said in 1942. He said—I will reveal to you the name of that great leader presently:

"We calculated that a really progressive standard of living would necessitate an increase of the national wealth by 500 to 600 per cent. That was, however, too big a jump for us, and we aimed at 200 to 300 per cent. within ten years. We fixed a ten year plan

period for the plan, with controlled figures for different periods."

This is from the 'Discovery of India' by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister. This was written in 1942 in the Ahmednagar Prison Camp. Is it not a far cry from a 20 per cent. increase in ten year to a 30 per cent. increase in 30 years? Are we really going forward, or are we reversing the gear in the national progress?

Now, the Prime Minister had also laid down the priorities. I need not read you all that. He accords the highest priority to food and agriculture, the next highest being to industrialisation. But in the present Plan, there is no plan for industrialisation. It has been relegated to the private sector. Out of a large amount of money, nearly about Rs. 2,000 crores, this Government are going to spend only about Rs. 94 crores from the public sector, and Rs. 234 crores from the private sector on industrialisation. The term 'private sector' of course, means the industrialists. But the directive of the Prime Minister was first an increase in agricultural production, and then an increase in industrial production, and this is what he said:

"The original idea behind the Planning Committee"—meaning the National Planning Committee—"had been to further industrialisation. The problems of poverty and unemployment, of national defence and of economic regeneration in general, cannot be solved without industrialisation. As a step towards such industrialisation, a comprehensive scheme of national planning should be formulated. This scheme should provide for the development of heavy key industries, medium-scale industries and cottage industries. I am all for tractors and big machines, and I am convinced that the rapid industrialisation of India is essential to relieve the pressure on land, combat poverty raise the standard of living for defence and a variety of other purposes."

This was the priority that was laid down. Now we find that the Planning Commission has evidently forgotten all ideas of industrialisation. They have accepted the industrial plan which was laid down in 1948, and have accepted it, without examining its effects, all these four years. The hon. Prime Minister was here yesterday, and he waxed very eloquent on industrialisation, and said that neither

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

the problem of defence nor the problem of our standard of living can be solved unless we have full industrialisation. But let us see what has happened actually. In industrialisation, the main thing is key industries. Iron and steel industry is the main industry, on which every other industry depends. We have been producing about one million tons of iron since 1939. Our industrialists, the iron and steel magnates, reduced it to 0·8 million tons after the war, and gave reasons which were purely cock and bull stories. The Government at that time acknowledged that our requirements of iron and steel were about three million tons, and the then Director-General of Industries was painstaking enough to plan for our iron and steel concerns, each producing half million tons. And there was a communique from the Government saying 'All our plans are ready, and we shall start all these industries within three months'. Now nearly four years have passed, and nothing has happened. I submit to you, Sir, that there are certain efficient Government Advisers who make plans, but as in the case of Penelope's web, there are some rats, which undo these plans in the dark. We can easily find out who these rats are. These rats are the invisible Advisers of the Planning Commission for Industries.

Now, how much have we lost on account of the non-establishment of the iron and steel factories? On account of the peculiar physical conditions in this country we can produce iron and steel at half to two-thirds of the rate of other countries. The economic price which has been given by the Tariff Commission to the iron and steel industry is Rs. 350. This is to prevent them from making too much profit. But iron and steel from other countries is sold at Rs. 600. So what has happened? Under the pretence of scarcity of iron and steel, we are issuing import licences to several favoured persons—import licences for about half a million tons are issued to favoured persons. They make about 15 to 20 crores of rupees by selling this iron and steel in the black-market. So in this way 15 to 20 crores of rupees are disappearing into the pockets of black-marketeers every year. I have found in the industrial programme which has been published by the Planning Commission that they have made a really good suggestion, a suggestion which may be developed into 'the turnover tax'. I do not know why this suggestion did

not occur to them four years ago. They said we have to find out capital for the iron and steel industries. Well, it is quite possible, because if we produce one million tons, we shall be making this amount at a cost of 35 crores of rupees. We shall charge the consumer the foreign price of Rs. 600 and this Rs. 250 per ton which comes to about Rs. 25 crores per million tons will be utilised in installing a new factory. So that out of the profits you can raise other iron and steel factories. Now, if this idea had struck them in 1949, we would have three or four iron and steel factories and this country would have been making about 100 crores of rupees more and adding to the national wealth. Nothing of the kind has been done on account of the 'rats' which work in the dark and undo your plans.

Now, gentlemen, you might say.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 'Sir'.

Shri Meghnad Saha: I am sorry, Sir. Now, we find that the policy which is followed by the Planning Commission with respect to industries is very nebulous. They have shown a lot of concern for the consumer industries. All these capital goods industries, i.e. the industries which are responsible for the furtherance of other industries, have been left to the private sector. Is it reasonable. You require for every one of your industries iron and steel. You require aluminium. You require lots of heavy chemicals and so on. I am illustrating by means of an example. Supposing we dig irrigation canals to irrigate our fields. Now, if there is no water in the main river, these irrigation canals cannot fertilise your fields. You are doing the same thing here. You are not having any plans for heavy industries and therefore, all your talk of consumer industries and helping them is absolutely barren. You cannot irrigate a field by means of canals unless there is water in the main river. There is no water in the main river here.

We have been hearing of the Chittaranjan factory turning out a large number of locomotives. Our total need of locomotives is about 2000 within the next five years. And it is a very funny admission on the part of the Planning Commission that the Chittaranjan and TELCO cannot perform their functions because there is no iron and steel in this country! Now, we are in the midst of water and we are still thirsting for water!

No country in this world is so well placed as regards iron and steel as India. This has been testified to by the Coppers Corporation. And other countries which are not so well placed as regards iron and steel have done far better. Japan had a very good iron and steel industry. They depended upon Manchuria. And now after the war that source was cut off. Now, within the last four years they have been able to have an iron and steel industry producing about four million tons, and they are soon having six million tons mostly out of scrap-iron they are exporting out of India.

I can take another example. Take England. After the war they have raised their production of iron and steel from about ten million tons to sixteen million tons. Again America and Soviet Russia. Soviet Russia was in the same position as ourselves in 1920. They produced only half a million tons. And what is their production now? It is about 60 million tons. And how have they done it? Not by calling on every occasion foreign experts. They built up the factory by means of American experts in Magnitogorsk and then they said: 'We can duplicate every factory ourselves'. This is not an idle dream of my own. In the old days of the National Planning Committee we had a very efficient man, the late Mr. P. N. Mathur. He was a top-ranking officer of the Tata Iron and Steel company. He gave us plans for a national workshop, a huge national workshop, where all machinery could be duplicated. Why this pathetic reliance on foreigners, I cannot understand. We can do everything ourselves if our leaders have the sturdy self-reliance which the Russians have got.

Now, aluminium industry. Aluminium has become a key industry. We produce five thousand tons, and in a most wretched manner by famous industrialists. There is an aluminium factory in Alwaye in Travancore-Cochin. This factory gets all its raw materials from Bihar and all these raw materials go from Bihar to Alwaye. And then after the pig aluminium is made there it comes to Calcutta for processing—for being converted into sheets and ingots. We pay Rs. 680 per ton and naturally enough the price of our country-made aluminium is Rs. 2,500 while Canadian aluminium can be bought at Rs. 1,600. So this is the efficiency of our great industrialists! Why should we be dependent for our aluminium on all these foreign concerns? And mind you, this Travancore-Cochin factory is managed by the Canadian Aluminium

Corporation which holds the aluminium empire of the world. They own 70 per cent. of the shares and they are keeping such an inefficient factory in this country. That is beyond my comprehension.

Now, an aluminium factory is not difficult to erect in this country. We have got the best of bauxite in Bihar. We shall have very cheap electric power and if you produce 50,000 tons of aluminium per year, we will completely revolutionise many industries in this country.

Take, for example, the tar industry. Take, for example, the explosives industry. We have got no coal tar distillation industry in this country. On another occasion I spoke of the very bad condition of the industries—glass, soda and other things. There the raw material is soda ash. This is a heavy industry. The matter was gone into by the Tariff Commission in 1949. And they say the Imperial Chemical Industries, which hold the chemical empire in India, are selling soda ash in England at between Rs. 140 and Rs. 160. In India the price of the same stuff is Rs. 380. And we are subsidising two very inefficient Indian companies and paying them lots of money out of the consumers' pockets, and the result is that those industries have stopped all manufacture and have entered into secret collusion with those foreign industrialists and they are extorting four times the prices from the Indian consumers. These are facts which I have already referred to. The Tariff Commission said that if we want to have a soda and glass industry and also soap industry, we should have a soda ash industry of our own. They recommended that a factory should be started at Sindri. That was in 1949. Nothing was done and we are being oppressed by all these foreign Chemical Industrial Empires.

Now, the Planning Commission in all its innocence said that our industrialists would start all these capital industries and they would do most of the work. But have they the capital to do so? Only the other day, I was reading the address by the Chairman of the Federated Chambers of Commerce. He said that we could at the most raise 100 crores of rupees per year. One hundred crores of rupees is not sufficient for even a single Iron and Steel Factory. We are subsidising them and we are placing ourselves entirely under their grip. So, I do not think that it is possible for any private industrialist in this country to find out the requisite amount of capital to establish a capital goods industry.

[Shri Meghnad Saha]

We find that this Plan has been very highly applauded by all foreigners. We find that Sir George Schuster, has been brought to this country by our industrialists at their own expense to bless this plan. Poor Sir George Schuster. He was the Finance Member of the Government of India in 1929 or 1930 when the rupee was devaluated and this country suffered enormous losses to save the tottering British economy. Now, such a man is brought to our country to bless the Plan. Are you not ashamed that we should continue such a Plan?

An Hon. Member: Why?

Shri Meghnad Saha: We find that this Plan will keep us producers of raw materials and raw men and our colonial servitude will for ever be perpetuated. If I were to call this Plan by any name I would call it a Bovine Plan. This Plan only cares to give food, it promises to give you sufficient food, whether it would do so or not is a different matter. The cow is content to eat a sufficient amount of grass, ruminant and live in eternal ignorance.

An Hon. Member: Give milk also.

Shri Meghnad Saha: The Plan promises to give us sufficient food, nothing else; no industry, no education, no sanitation, nothing of the kind. So, this Plan is a Bovine plan.

The Prime Minister assured us that if there is anything wrong in this Plan, he will change this Plan for something very new. In all humility, I should say, change the Plan because the present planners and their visible and invisible Advisers have created this moral prison-house far worse in its effects than the Ahmedabad Prison camp.

'For lofty walls do not a prison make.

Nor iron bars a cage.

but a group of unprogressive and reactionary officials and Advisers can erect barriers which cannot be penetrated by any fertilising idea. We call upon the hon. Leader of the House to break these barriers and in that effort to re-shape our future.

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal—West, Cuttack): I have very little time, so I will dwell on the Planning Commission for a few minutes. I had said last time that the planners should have gone to the villages and ask the villagers what they wanted, before

they made up the Plan. I had occasion, during the last interim period, to visit a community project in my State, Orissa. I found in three or four villages in that project there was not a single one—villager—who was enthused about the community project. I know the area; it is impassable during the monsoon season; even bullock carts cannot go in those roads. But, they say, they are accustomed to mud and water, and mud and water in the paddy fields. So, when they have to go to the headquarters, they do not mind water but their fields are not producing the crops for the last four or five years because of lack of rain. They say, 'we have the river Salandi, which should be dammed and we should be given water for irrigation'. I came to know that the damming of that river would roughly cost Rs. two crores. So, I argued that if the planners had gone there with this project and tried to enthuse the villagers and when the villagers wanted a project requiring an outlay of two crores of rupees then the Planners would have said good-bye. 'We will go elsewhere where they will welcome us, because we do not have two crores and we have only 65 lakhs of rupees.' That is all the amount that they have. That is why I say that the planners should have gone to the villagers and found out what they wanted, whether they want this community project or not. I do not mean to say that villagers nowhere want these community projects. There are places where they are welcome; there are places where they are not for various reasons. This is one of them.

I have several times talked about public administration and co-operation. This time I want to say a few words about co-operation. The Prime Minister downwards, everybody talks about co-operation, public co-operation, nowadays. Resolutions are passed and conferences are held, all about public co-operation. My co-operation was solicited by the District Collector of my district in my constituency during the last summer months. Just about a year ago, I went for two or three weeks and located some minor irrigation schemes I submitted 39 of them—I had rejected four or five which were not suitable to my mind. It was just about a year ago and last February, when I visited the Collector, I was told that they were still under investigation. Now, Sir, you will note that this money was sanctioned two years ago by the Centre. The money went to the State two years ago and the schemes for which

that money was meant are not yet started. How do you expect self-sufficiency in food in another two years, five years or ten years? I found that the people who have to implement these are different from the people who make up these plans. The plans are easy to make up in the Secretariats, where you have libraries consisting of books from all countries of the world previous files and that is what the Secretariat people are fit for. They are not fit for implementing the Plan. The implementation of the plans, particularly these major irrigation schemes, is left to the Collector, the Sub-Divisional Officer, the Tahsildar, the overseer. And those people, I found, are not keen about them and do not feel the urgency of it. Consequently they are not being done. So, I felt frustrated after this experience, and I informed the concerned Minister at the Centre, and also the Chief Minister of Orissa, but there is no redress. Then again, in these things, occasionally the plan changes. Originally, about two or three years ago.....

4 P.M.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Rs. 15 crores have been set apart for this purpose.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Yes, and from five years from today, it may be that Rs. five crores will be eaten up by some people and Rs. ten crores will remain in your treasury, with no work done. I am glad that my hon. friend interrupted me, because it reminds me of the fact that the Central Government, the State Governments and all Governments in India are interested in appropriating money and afterwards, a year or two having passed, coming and showing how much money has been spent and how much money has lapsed. They are not interested in showing what achievements have been obtained from the spending of the money. It is very funny that the plan has been in operation for two years and yet we do not know what has been achieved in the different sectors.

An Hon. Member: That is your fault.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Now, I come particularly to the Hirakud project. I had last year criticised certain irregularities and the Minister was kind enough to say that my criticisms had no foundation, but I now see that the report of the Public Accounts Committee fully corroborates

whatever criticism I had made about bullocks, about nepotism and about corruption. Everything is there. I am very glad. I congratulate the Public Accounts Committee on having gone thoroughly into those aspects that they have dealt with. They have done a good service not only for the Hirakud project, but for all big projects that we are now going on with or whatever else we may have later. I do not wish to go into the details, but I want to assure the House that it must disabuse itself of the impression that I am against multi-purpose projects. I am not against them. Probably, I have been for having projects of this kind long before some of the Ministers were born.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): It is too tall a claim.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: As the representatives of the people, it is our duty to see whether it is done properly or not; whether it is done in time or not. I do not wish to go into the past any more.

Now, I notice that in the Savage Report of 1948 there were various things that had been recommended to be done simultaneously with the construction of the dam. On page three of that report, you will find the recommendations about malarial survey, soil survey, the area that has to be irrigated, the reforestation of the catchment area and so on. As far as I know, none of these things have been done. Lately I have come to know that the Government of India in the Central Power and Water Commission have handed over these aspects of the work to the Orissa Government. Although in the Savage Report it was said that the project itself must be fully responsible for the overall development of the valley and all these matters, I was told by the project officers as well as the Ministers in Orissa that nothing has been done about reforestation of the catchment area. There is a lot of agitation by certain people who are in the know that reforestation is necessary, as they think that the dam will be silted up in less than 15 or 20 years or so if that is not done. Yet, the fact remains that we do not go in for reforestation of the catchment area, and if we do not go in for reforestation now, then does it mean that the thousands of square miles of area that are situated in Madhya Pradesh will be bringing silt there, which can be prevented only if we plant trees in the catchment area now. This is one thing.

[Shri Sarangadhar Das]

The next thing is with reference to what I said about Hirakud last December, namely, that there is no co-ordination—or at any rate not very much of it—between the Reclamation Department of the Orissa Government and the project authorities, with the result that lands are reclaimed according to the indications of the project officers, that fifty-three villages would be submerged. They are not submerged yet and people do not go away from there. In the meantime, over some thousands of acres which have been reclaimed the overgrowth is coming up once again. It will have to be cleared when the people go there at the time of actual submersion. I know the hon. Minister will say that there are people in Sambalpur who are inciting the people of the villages that will be submerged not to go to the reclaimed land but to stick on in their present location. So, the time will come when submersion will really take place and they will have to run helter-skelter, probably not getting even the lands that they have a chance of getting now. In that connection, I repeat what I had said before, because I was told last time that the value that is being paid for the lands is not commensurate or adequate. While it is being said by everyone in authority that it is adequate. The Chief Minister in his speech a few days ago said that it is adequate, but the trouble is that some of our Ministers and the officers at different times misguide us. I was told in the Estimates Committee that the value of the land, or rather the compensation, has been raised and that is why the total compensation has come to Rs. ten or eleven crores whereas it was Rs. five crores in 1950. But in Sambalpur, I found that in comparison with 1950 the area that will be submerged is practically double, because the height of the dam was increased during 1950 and 1951 and consequently the compensation to be paid has been doubled from Rs. five crores to Rs. ten crores or Rs. eleven crores. I mean thereby that the rate of compensation has not been increased. I should like to have this point cleared by the hon. Minister. This is one of the reasons for the dissatisfaction.

Looking to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I must say that the five years of working of this Hirakud project is disgraceful. It is in a deplorable condition, and I fully endorse the view taken by the Committee—although even before the Committee went into this matter I had

arrived at the same conclusion in my own mind—namely, that there must be a full-time Chief Engineer present there every minute of the twenty-four hours of the day. It is surprising that Government, having taken up a Rs. 100 crore job, have not seen to it that a full-time Chief Engineer is there. This has been so for so many years. I also endorse the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that there should be a first class Administrator at the head of the organization, who could co-ordinate all the activities and who could look into the overall development of the Mahanadi Valley. Without these this project will never be successful, and it will be simply pouring money and works being done without sanctioned estimates. This kind of thing will go on for ever.

So my final suggestion is that in the future, Government should be careful, not only with respect to Hirakud but with respect to other projects, that proper officers are recruited by competition and not through the back-door and really good Administrators should be put at the top, at the head of the organisation, and the Chief Engineer should be appointed from the very beginning. Sir, you will yourself remember that in regard to the Damodar Valley Corporation, as far as we know, up to the time a Chief Engineer was appointed to be regularly in charge of the Corporation the work was not progressing as well as it should have. There were all kinds of rumours about Damodar Valley also. But we have heard, and I am glad to say that I believe the persons who have told me, that after that Chief Engineer took over charge, things have improved. And we get all kinds of data from Damodar Valley although there is nothing from Hirakud. For instance, in Hirakud the batching plant that has been set up lately which has a capacity of about 200 square yards per hour does not have the auxiliaries—the crushing plant and the screening plant are not erected yet. Consequently it is doing only a very little concrete, and although we have had the project going for five years, not even five feet of real concrete dam have come up yet.

I do not wish to deprive my friend of his time and I conclude.

Shri T. N. Singh: Our friend from Orissa has just now made his contribution to this debate and naturally I listened with great attention to what he had to say about the project

of his own home Province. As a Member of the Public Accounts Committee I was certainly interested in listening to the reactions of our colleagues here. I must at the outset pay a whole-hearted tribute to our Irrigation Minister who could rise to the occasion and show real greatness in accepting most of the recommendations of this Committee of the House, at such short notice. I think I am right in interpreting him that he never meant, when he said that he had got only two days' time, that the Public Accounts Committee in any way deliberately placed that Report in such a manner; what he meant to say was that he had very little time to consider the Report and therefore probably that he may not be able to express the Government's view on all the recommendations; and some of them naturally are under consideration even now, I think. By such acts, I think not only he but our Congress Government, which has at its head one of the greatest men not only in this country but probably in the world, has shown what it is capable of, and the esteem, reputation and prestige of the Congress Government has gone up. There might have been mistakes. I want to know who does not commit mistakes. Everyone is liable to commit mistakes. But greatness, balance, wisdom and tact lie in profiting by mistakes and rectifying them. That is the capacity of a live organisation, and I say that our Government has by tackling this problem again shown that it is a vital, live, living thing.

It was our sorry task to look into faults. As the Public Accounts Committee of this august House you have entrusted to us the task of looking into irregularities, looking into faults. We are a fault-finding Committee. I have no hesitation in admitting that. And we have tried to do that. It is an unpleasant job. It is a very difficult job. It is very painful sometimes to sit in judgment, to pass a verdict, to come to decisions where our own fellow workers in the national cause are concerned. I have got every regard for the officials who are working on these. They are, I am sure, putting in a great deal of labour. I would not hesitate to say that we, that is our Committee, received every co-operation from both the Ministries concerned. Papers, documents and all that was needed was made readily available. And the Committee tried to put questions. Sometimes it may be that questions were asked which were unpleasant. But I can assure the House that our

Committee approached the whole problem in all humility. We knew that just as our fellow officials might have committed mistakes we are also liable to commit mistakes. We had that view in mind. And I can assure the hon. Minister that we have probed the whole question in great humbleness. We accept the limitations to which human being is subject. But our great Leader, Mahatma Gandhi, has taught us that we should approach every such problem in all humility. Once that approach is there, after that there should be no hesitation in coming to the decision that you feel honestly to be correct. Whatever is written here, I can say that Members of our Committee have assessed everything with great impartiality, great honesty, they have weighted every word. There were 20 sittings, three to four hours every day, and we have been sitting, drafting, redrafting and weighing every word. Therefore for us it would have been very easy to make a rough and ready report but we have not done that. Apart from this, the general question of planning is there. Our great future that lies ahead is there. In that perspective we should view Hirakud, Damodar Valley or any other project. That is the correct approach and I can assure the House as well as the Government that our Committee never lost sight of that approach.

Ours is a poor country. We have got limited resources both in men and money, talent, technicians and in everything. Yet, we have to carry on with these same people and therefore I am not at all sorry if our Indian engineers have committed mistakes. What is there to be sorry about it? We have a right to commit mistakes. That is exactly what we fought for what we aimed at and what we dreamt of. I would ask our officials who are in this task not to be upset by any criticisms that are made. They are made in a friendly spirit. This House is a friend of the officials and the House expects that the officials are its friends and in that spirit, this report should be taken. I am really very glad that our Minister and our Government have made that approach in coming to such a decision on this.

Further I must pay a tribute to the Members who have spoken so far for their restraint and for their wise attitude, particularly in this matter. They have not tried to make any capital out of this. Similarly I would ask others not to involve this report into any other unnecessary

[Shri T. N. Singh]

criticisms or differences. That will not be desirable. That is not the spirit in which this whole report is presented and in which the Government have accepted it. This is the position.

As regards to the work there, there is a lot of difficulty. The climate is unkind, there are difficulties of labour and material, they are struggling against them. But we have got to be judged against ourselves. We have been very harsh judges ourselves. That is what we have done. When we were writing this report we were judging ourselves.

I would certainly take this opportunity to refer in a few words generally about our multi-purpose projects. I am one of those who has always expressed on the greater importance of these small projects. I have always said that our country being so poor, our talents and everything else so limited, it will not only be possible for us to undertake these small projects but those projects will also give immediate results. It is also necessary because we are going on deficit financing for the finalisation of these big projects. In deficit financing you want quick return. If there is a time-lag between the printing of the notes and the returns you get, it is bound to result in a rapidly increasing inflation. That is why I consider that from the financial point of view, if it is considered possible to invest most of our resources on smaller projects, I for one would feel much happier. It is also within our tradition. We have been doing that. The whole Congress movement, what to say of Congress movement, the entire tradition of this country is to go on a small scale. Take any man,—the village entrepreneur who wants to do something. His elder, his father advises him. "My dear son, do not start in a big way, start in a small way". That is the teaching we get from our people and for that reason I would again emphasise that we should spend our resources, men, money and materials on the smaller projects. They will give us quicker returns.

Another thing that struck me about these big projects is that we are so much dependent on the foreigners, on foreign talent, on foreign scientists that somehow when we are up against difficulties, the normal tendency is for each one of us to say, "Why not get someone from abroad, let him solve our problems". Some friends here say let them come from Soviet

Russia, others say call them from America. Why? Why should we do that? It is better to commit mistakes and learn by mistakes than to call foreigners. I am glad that at least in Hirakud, except for one or two cases where we tried to consult Americans, we relied on our own engineers. That was the right thing. This is what should be done. As a matter of fact, there are certain controversies about the membership of our Commission, what should be their functions, etc? These are small things. I think the Government is going to try the right thing. You want to get work from our men. What happens? We give a large amount of work, greater responsibilities on the same man. That is not proper. Let us take what we can do. We have referred in this report to certain personnel and what they should do. The entire motive behind that was simply this.

Shri Lokenath Mishra (Puri): Why is the hon. Member so apologetic about his own report—I mean the report of the Sub-Committee of the P.A.C. on Hirakud?

Shri T. N. Singh: I am not apologetic. I want to explain as to why certain things have been done. Nobody should impute any other motive except the motive of fairplay; proper judgment, right approach. This is what we have done. We have also to avoid unnecessary controversy here. That is in the interest of the project as well as the country. This is my objective. Howsoever that might be, I do not want myself to be involved in such things but about this I am very clear and definite.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House would have been glad to know the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee and the manner in which the Government has implemented it. The hon. Member seems to be very apologetic.

Shri T. N. Singh: I am coming to that.

Shri Nanda: He is satisfied.....

Shri T. N. Singh: That is what I was coming to.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must conclude now.

Shri T. N. Singh: We have made certain recommendations as I was saying just now in which we have suggested certain actions against certain individuals and then there are other recommendations. We have recommended certain changes in the responsibilities that are now being

put on certain individuals. These are the two sets of things. About one, I am very glad to state that Government have accepted that—I hope the hon. Minister will be attentive—and that action will be taken against the individuals who have been named in this report, especially in regard to the Sleeper and Bullock cases. I think that is No. 1; that has been accepted. I have verified it.

An Hon. Member: What about the root cause?

Shri T. N. Singh: The second thing is in regard to personnel. We are told that Government are considering that proposal, especially as it is tied up with our proposal for the appointment of an Administrator. I am prepared to give them time and I hope the House would readily appreciate the position of the Government in taking a little time to adjust this matter. After all, administrative changes cannot be made overnight. But, so far as responsibility being thrust on one individual is concerned, I think there cannot be any two opinions, any way. I would be really pleased and the House will be happy if the hon. Minister can give a definite assurance that an individual will not be saddled with more than one responsibility. That is what I understand is probably high up in the mind of the hon. Minister though it has not been so categorically announced. I think in this matter at least it should have been possible to take a quicker decision. Because, the Estimates Committee, another Finance Committee of this House, has already made a clear-cut recommendation on this issue. The report of the Public Accounts Committee contains nothing new. There was nothing like any surprise. What I say is, so far as personnel is concerned, against some we have recommended action. That has been accepted by the Government. Against others, we have said that their responsibility should be defined and they should not be saddled with too many responsibilities. There should be one man for one job, as the hon. Mr. Sarangadhar Das from Orissa said. We do not want part-time men. That is not desirable and that is not in the interests of the project. I think the Government will have to take a decision as the PAC has recommended. But, if they want to take time in order to adjust the administrative set up, the House should readily accept that position. So far as I am concerned, I am satisfied that out of the 22 recommendations, 18 have been accepted straightaway. The other five or six require some consideration. There is a recommendation regarding the

laying of the Railway track to Ciplima. We have said that it should be dismantled. That is a matter which should be worked out. What is to be done with that, when is the subsidiary dam actually to be taken, all that has to be worked out by the Government themselves. They should certainly take time for that. I have no grievance.

There are two or three recommendations regarding personnel and administrative set up. These are matters of administration and if they want to take time, at least, I for one am prepared to give that time. We have recommended that the Financial Adviser should be a separate officer, that the Chief Accounts Officer should be a separate officer, but under the Financial Adviser. They have accepted that principle. It is stated there: the principle is accepted. As to who should be who, how it shall be worked out, these are matters that they want to consider. I think it is quite a legitimate thing and the House cannot have any grievance on that. Nor have I any grievance on that point.

But, I wish to urge one point again. That is, the Estimates Committee has made certain recommendations in regard to the Central Water Power Commission, its personnel, its membership, its Chairman and the duties that have to be entrusted to them. That recommendation has been before the Government. It is surprising that three years have elapsed and nothing has been done. Our Committee has more or less endorsed that recommendation with certain additions: the appointment of an Administrator, etc. I think that should be worked out and Government should have no difficulty in coming to a decision on that point.

Last point, Sir. The hon. Minister said that he does not and cannot undertake to ditto every word that has been said. That is why I have made certain remarks in the early part of my speech. I again say that we approached the whole problem with the greatest humility. We have gone into every detail and we have considered things as a frail human being looking into the conduct of other human beings. That was the attitude that we have adopted. I am sure we have shown every impartiality and objectiveness and if the hon. Minister goes through the report, I think he will be convinced that whatever has been stated has been stated correctly in that spirit and not otherwise.

[PANDIT THAKURDAS BHARGAVA in the chair.]

Shri Boovaraghasamy: In moving my cut motions, I wish to point out that the Planning Commission has failed to make a thorough study of the present conditions of our country, especially in the south. People are suffering from famine and drought in many parts of our country, especially in the south. I suggest that more money should have been allotted and more irrigation schemes proposed for construction so that we may produce more foodgrains. In the south, the soil is fertile. Besides, there are a large number of irrigation tanks and wells. But, these tanks and wells are dry, especially in the dry season, even people and cattle are unable to yet drinking water. They have to go more than a mile for drinking water. Such is the condition in South India. But, there is the river Cauvery. Only 60 per cent. of its water is utilised for irrigation according to official statistics, and the remaining 40 per cent. water goes waste to the sea. The river Cauvery takes its source from Mysore, and passes in a zig-zag manner through Salem District, Coimbatore District, Trichy District and Tanjore District, and then enters the Bay of Bengal. I suggest that at Mohanur, situated between the border of Salem District and Trichy District near the Cauvery, a canal may be dug by which the Cauvery water can be diverted for irrigation eastwards. This canal may run through Mohanur, Mettupalayam, Thorayur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam Taluk covering a distance of nearly 100 miles in Trichy District. We can easily fill up those large number of irrigation tanks by diverting the Cauvery water by this canal. By this canal, nearly half a million acres of land can be brought under irrigation, and the entire food scarcity of Tamil Nad can easily be solved. And it can be constructed at a relatively low cost, of the order of Rs. two or Rs. three crores. I think it is a very small amount when it is compared with the hundreds of crores incurred by the North Indian projects. The people may also be willing to pay any extra taxes.

Then, I come to electric power. Electric power is one of the most important needs of the modern world. It is most essential for irrigation. There are in India only 3,000 villages which are provided with electricity out of 560,000 villages approximately. In my constituency, in Udayarpalayam and Perambalur Taluk of Trichy District, even big places are not at all provided with electricity. Therefore, I request that immediate steps should be

taken to provide that area with electricity. It is a very backward area.

Then, I want to speak a few words about health. It is very unfortunate we have no discussion on health. Nowadays, people are suffering and dying, especially in rural areas, for want of medical aid, and the Government say that the required number of qualified doctors are not available. I suggest that, in view of the availability of a large number of Ayurvedic doctors, they may be engaged to render medical aid in rural areas provided they are found eligible, qualified doctors as L.M.Ps., L.I.Ms., and such others with degrees and diplomas are concentrated only in urban areas. It is essential that each area with a population of 1000 in rural areas must have a recognised doctor so that in times of emergency the people will not only get timely assistance but also advice if the case is a complicated one.

I conclude with my request to the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power and this House to pay special attention to the irrigation scheme I suggested, i.e., the construction of a canal diverting the Cauvery water from Mohanur to Mettupalayam, Thorayur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Udayarpalayam. I can assure that by this canal South India will become a surplus area. And let it not be thought, that I am too much provincial, but provincialism has to be encouraged. Such a regionalisation of benefit in all provinces will lead to greater production and increased national wealth.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): I have very great pleasure to support the Demands moved today. The Demands for the Ministry of Planning, Irrigation and Power that we are now discussing are of paramount importance, and deserve our special study and attention. As we are all aware, the expenditure envisaged by the Plan which this House has accepted, takes a little over 27 per cent. under irrigation—multi-purpose irrigation and power projects and power. Roughly it takes in under these heads Rs. 561 crores out of Rs. 2,069 crores. But provision for the projects in the period of the Plan comes to Rs. 518 crores. We have estimated in the Plan, as finalised, to bring an additional area of 8.5 million acres under irrigation and to generate 1.1 million k.w. of additional power. It is in the light of these figures that we have to approach these Demands

moved today and to view them in a critical way.

I shall first deal with one criticism which has been raised in this House by the scientist Member of our House, Dr. Saha. He said that the allotment in the Plan towards industrial projects is quite inadequate, and that will keep us as a backward country for a number of years to come. When divided into watertight compartments, the allotment for the industrial programme is only 8.54 per cent. of the total allotment. But I would humbly state that critics, when they find fault with this inadequate allotment for the industrial development of the country, have to take into consideration our multipurpose projects too. It is well known that cheap electric power is taken as a fundamental requirement for the industrial development of any country. The quantity of electricity consumed per capita in any country is taken as an index of the material and industrial development of that country. Adopting this standard, we get an idea of the primitive and unorganised nature of our economy. What was the position, when we attained independence? The figures given in some of the publications are an eloquent testimony of our backwardness. I will cite for the information of the House some figures. The consumption of electricity per capita in India is only 14 kwh. as against 3,536 kwh. in Canada 2,400 kwh. in Sweden, 2,290 in U.S.A., 2,024 in Norway and 1,688 in Switzerland.

Another significant feature, as far as we are concerned, is that even with regard to the provision of electrical energy, Calcutta and Bombay, with a total population of one per cent. of the whole country, between them, consume half of the total electrical energy. The progress in rural electrification is practically nil, except in a few places such as Madras, Mysore, and Travancore-Cochin, and about the last I will have to make a reference later on. We have before us a report of the progress made in the execution of the various projects, in the literature supplied by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, and the position is so graphically described in the explanatory memorandum. They constitute a magnificent record of which any country may feel proud having regard to the short period which had elapsed after starting these, and the various drawbacks under which we were working. But curiously enough, we are apt to exaggerate the defects and the shortcomings. The financial control is coming up for a great deal of criticism. Of course, we must be watchful and zealously guard

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the interests of the public. The Public Accounts Committee has exposed several of the irregularities in its report concerning the Hirakud project, for which, including that in the current year, we would have spent about Rs. 27 crores. We have budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 11:72 crores in 1953-54. I am not, for a moment, minimising the incompetence displayed in its operations. We have, however, the assurance of the hon. Minister who had occasion to make a stay of about 13 days on the spot and make a detailed inquiry I will just quote from a press statement which he has issued, and that will be a sufficient assurance as to the interest that he has taken in regard to the complaints raised in regard to the Hirakud Project. He said:

"I am aware of the suspicions which have been aroused, and I have been looking into all these matters during the 13 days that I have spent here. I have also not lost sight of the fact that the Government felt itself impelled to start the project without delay, and in the earlier stages, things have happened which must cause concern and regret. But as far as I can judge, their total effect, in relation to the size and magnitude of the project, is not of much significance."

I would like to emphasize that little advantage is gained by this post mortem examination of the Public Accounts Committee. Steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of such happenings.

When we consider the river valley projects, we cannot ignore the D.V.C. project. Recently I had occasion to visit and see for myself with some other colleagues, the scene of activities of the D.V.C., and what I have seen there has deeply impressed me. I would earnestly appeal to my hon. friends in the Opposition that there is no reason to doubt the report of our tremendous achievement. The foreign experts and visitors regard it as one of the biggest constructions in the world. "The River of Sorrow", as the Damodar river used to be termed, has now been converted into a river of happiness and prosperity. The sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister at the opening of the Tiliaya dam and the thermal station at Bokaro, are completely justified. He stated:

"Lakhs of people in both Bihar and West Bengal suffered extensive loss and misery every year because of floods in the Damodar river. The people in the villages

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

need no longer be afraid of famine drought. They are assured of an ample water supply throughout the year. Cheap electricity will not only illuminate their houses, but will go a long way towards the industrialisation of an important area."

I do not want to weary the House with regard to the report of the progress made so far. This is all contained in the publications supplied to us.

I would like to refer to one criticism that has been made here, and has been confirmed by the hon. Mr. T. N. Singh, and that is with regard to foreign assistance. We cannot afford to lose lakhs and lakhs of rupees, experimenting with our indigenous talent. We have also to take into consideration foreign assistance in this connection. There is the assurance of Mr. Sarangadhar Das himself that with regard to the D.V.C. project, the appointment of the new chief engineer has done a great deal of good, and that person himself has reported that in the case of the Tiliaya dam, indigenous talent also has contributed a great deal.

Shri Meghnad Saha: May I interrupt the hon. Member for a minute, Sir? A foreigner was asked to construct the dam, and he constructed an earth dam at the Tiliaya dam, at a cost of a crore of rupees, which was washed away by the rains.

Shri A. M. Thomas: When we consider the Plan from a regional standpoint, I am inclined to agree with some of the cut motions that have been moved, namely that the south has been neglected in the matter for these projects. When I go into the Irrigation and multipurpose power projects that have been started in my own State of Travancore-Cochin, there are as many as five or six projects. But I may mention for the consideration of the hon. Minister, that all these projects were started there before the Plan itself, and in continuation, some assistance, is given under the Five Year Plan. That is all. But that is quite inadequate, compared with the problems concerning my State, and there is only a total allotment of Rs. 27 crores to that State, with a population of 92 lakhs.

I would urge upon the hon. Minister to consider some of the schemes which are now being mooted there; there is one important scheme, namely the Iddiki scheme, that is well worth pursuing, and if it is pursued, the

complaints with regard to the neglect of the south can also be met to a certain extent.

श्री सी० के० नायर (दाह्य दिल्ली) :
सभापति जी, आपने मुझको इतना समय दिया इस के लिये मैं आपका शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ ।

मुझे दिल्ली के इरिगेशन के बारे में कुछ बातें कहनी हैं । मैं आम तौर पर संसद् में नहीं बोलता करता हूँ । मेरे पास काम काफी से ज्यादा रहता है, लेकिन इस वक्त दिल्ली के इरिगेशन के बारे में कुछ कहना बहुत मौजूम समझ कर मैं इस मौके से फायदा उठाना चाहता हूँ । ज्यादा शिकायतें दक्षिण की स्टेट्स में से आती हैं कि दक्षिण की स्टेट्स को बहुत ज्यादा इग्नोर किया गया है, उन के साथ ज्यादा बेपरवाही बरती गई है, लेकिन मेरे स्थाल में दिल्ली स्टेट को सब से ज्यादा इग्नोर किया गया है इन तमाम रिवर वैली प्रोजेक्ट्स में । मिसाल के तौर पर दिल्ली की कुल साढ़े तीन लाख एकड़ जमीन है, इस से कुछ ज्यादा ही, यानी ३६४ हजार एकड़ है । इस में से कुल ३६ हजार एकड़ जमीन को वेस्टर्न यमुना केनाल से पानी मिलता है और वह भी जितना मिलना चाहिये, कोटे के मुताबिक,

5 P. M.

उससे आधा मिलता है । और आधा मिलने पर भी पूरा आबियाना चार्ज किया जाता है । यहाँ इन ३६ लाख एकड़ के बाहर एक लाख एकड़ जमीन ऐसी पड़ी हुई है जिस के लिये पानी की सख्त जरूरत है । दिल्ली के चारों तरफ ग्रीन बेल्ट और मिल्क फार्म्स बनाने की बड़ी बड़ी स्कीम्स हैं लेकिन मैं ताज्जुब करता हूँ कि यह तमाम चीजें पानी के बगैर कैसे की जा सकती हैं । आप ताज्जुब करेंगे कि भाकरा प्रोजेक्ट के नीचे दिल्ली को एक क्यूर्सक्स पानी भी नहीं मिलता । यह

कितने ताज्जुब की बात है कि जब दिल्ली को पंजाब के सिवाय और किसी सूबे से पानी नहीं मिल सकता है तो पंजाब के सब से बड़े डैम में न सिर्फ पंजाब के बल्कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान के सबसे बड़े डैम से, बल्कि मैंने तो यहां तक सुना है कि यह दुनिया का सब से बड़ा डैम होगा, दिल्ली को एक कतरा भी पानी नहीं नसीब होता है। इसकी क्या वजह है। इसकी वजह यह है कि सब से पहले जब भाखरा डैम के पानी का बटवारा हो रहा था उस वक्त पंजाब पेप्सू और राजस्थान के नुमायन्दों ने बैठकर इस का बटवारा किया और दिल्ली को बिल्कुल इगनोर किया गया। दिल्ली के चीफ कमिश्नर को इसकी कोई परवाह नहीं थी। न हमारी होम मिनिस्ट्री ने इसकी परवाह की जो कि दिल्ली के लिये जिम्मेवार है। मैं इस काम को क्रिमिनल समझता हूं कि इस सूबे के साथ इतनी बेपरवाही की गई। जब कि हमारे सूबे का पूरा हक है भाखरा डैम से पानी लेने का तब इस प्रकार उसे पूरे तौर पर इगनोर क्यों किया गया। इसकी पूरे तौर पर तहकीकात होनी चाहिये। मैं मानता हूं कि अब भी बहुत ज्यादा वक्त नहीं गुजर गया है। अब भी इस मामले की पूरी तहकीकात करनी चाहिये। हम ने पढ़ा है कि भाखरा डैम से ६.५ मिलियन एकड़ यानी ६५ लाख एकड़ जमीन को पानी मिल सकता है। दिल्ली को तो सिर्फ एक लाख एकड़ जमीन के लिये पानी की आवश्यकता है। इसमें से ६५वां हिस्सा पानी दिल्ली को मिल जाय। अगर ऐसा हो तो दिल्ली सारे हिन्दुस्तान का एक शानदार बाग बन सकता है जिसके अन्दर न सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तान के चारों तरफ से यात्री लोग आते रहते हैं बल्कि सारी दुनिया के लोग आ कर दिल्ली शहर के बाहर जाना चाहते हैं और यह देखना चाहते हैं कि यहां के देहात की क्या हालत है। वहां उन को उल्टी स्थिति नजर आती

है। जितनी दिल्ली खुशहाल है और सुन्दर है और आराम में मस्त है उतने ही हमारे देहाती लोग तकलीफ और दुःख में मस्त हैं। क्योंकि उन लोगों को पानी नहीं मिलता है। जिस एक लाख एकड़ जमीन के बारे में मैं कह रहा था उसके नीचे का पानी खारा है, खेती के लायक नहीं है। नेशक हमें नांगल प्रोजेक्ट से बिजली मिल रही है। उस बिजली से अगर हम चाहें तो ट्यूब वैल्स कायम कर सकते हैं। लेकिन जिस एरिया के बारे में मैं कह रहा हूं उस एरिया में ट्यूब वैल्स कारआमद नहीं हो सकते क्योंकि वहां का पानी खारा है। इस वजह से उस पानी से उस जमीन को फायदा नहीं हो सकता। नम्बर १ और नम्बर २, वही जमीन बहुत बड़ा सरफेस है। उस में नहर का पानी अवश्य मिलना चाहिये और मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि भाखरा प्राजेक्ट से पानी क्यों नहीं मिल सकता हर हालत वहां पानी अवश्य मिलना चाहिये। यह मेरी प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर से एक पुरजोर अपील है। दिल्ली के पानी के बारे में जितनी बेपरवाही की गई है उसकी तहकीकात करें और जो भाखरा डैम ६५ लाख एकड़ जमीन को पानी दे सकता है उसमें बचाकर किसी प्रकार दिल्ली के एक लाख एकड़ को पानी जरूर देना चाहिये। उस वक्त हम दिल्ली के चारों तरफ ग्रीन बेल्ट सुन्दर तरीके से बना सकेंगे। बगैर पानी के दिल्ली में कुछ काम नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि नीचे का पानी खराब है।

दूसरे दिल्ली की हालत इतनी खराब इसलिये भी है कि दिल्ली में एक इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट तक नहीं है। इरीगेशन यूनिट न होने की वजह से और हमेशा पंजाब के साथ जुटा रखने की वजह से दिल्ली को हमेशा तकलीफ रही है। नहर के सिलसिले में जितनी शिकायतें थीं उनको कोई सुनने वाला नहीं है क्योंकि हमारा मुहकमा नहीं

[श्री सी० के० नायर]।

है। हमें हर बात में पंजाब के पास जाना पड़ता था। सीलिये मेरी दूसरी प्रार्थना यह है कि दिल्ली में एक इरीगेशन यूनिट अलग बन जाना चाहिये जो कि हमारी इरीगेशन की जरूरियात को अच्छी तरह से अध्ययन करे और उसको पूरे तौर पर इम्प्लीमेंट करने की कोशिश करे।

और तीसरी चीज मुझे यह कहनी है कि दिल्ली में एक सीवेज फार्म है ओखले के पास। उस में भी बाई हजार एकड़ जमीन की आबपाशी होती है लेकिन क्योंकि हमारा कोई इरीगेशन डिपार्टमेंट नहीं है इसलिये वहां के आबयाने के असेसमेंट का तरीका बहुत गलत है और उसको साइंटिफिक तरीके से नहीं किया जाता है। सुना है कि वहां और ज्यादा जमीन को काश्त में लेकर उस फार्म को ऐक्सपेंड करना चाहते हैं। इसलिये मैं इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूं। सब से पहले वहां एक इरीगेशन यूनिट हो और दूसरी चीज यह कि दिल्ली के लिये भाखरा डैम से पूरा पानी हासिल करने की कोशिश की जाय। यह कह कर मैं बेयर को शुक्रिया अदा करता हूं।

Shri C. R. Chowdary: The Five Year Plan proposes to include a project to be taken up on the River Krishna during the latter part of the Plan period or in the early part of the next Five Year Plan. The River Krishna has got 50 million acre feet of water out of which 18 per cent. is utilised now. About six million acre feet of water, it is estimated to be utilised, under the Tungabhadra project that is to be completed in June next. The high level canal that is proposed is yet to be taken up. Any scheme for utilisation of the same must be planned and executed with great care and caution. One must not play with the Krishna waters motivated by ulterior purposes with resultant loss of national resources. The Krishna Valley will be deprived of its waters if the Krishna waters are permitted to

be played with. The Krishna Valley has got abundant land resources. The Plan itself says it. Further, the Krishna Valley is thickly populated. The kind of agriculture that is practised there is primitive, and also the returns are poor. The Krishna Valley, as a matter of fact, has got only 0 to 25 inches of varying annual rainfall and every year either one part or other of the Krishna Valley is affected by famine. To relieve and improve the present condition there and develop agriculture it is necessary to have a project there. Therefore, when schemes were under consideration as to which of the projects must be taken up, the Central Government appointed an Expert Committee to go into and examine the various projects proposed by the concerned Governments. The Hyderabad Government has investigated in full the dam site and the canal on its side, that is the left side canal. They proposed the Nandikonda project to be taken up immediately by the Centre or the Centre may help the Hyderabad Government in taking up that project. But the Madras Government proposed a plan which is called the Krishna Penar Plan and this plan was rejected on scrutiny and examination by the Expert Committee as it was found to be most unproductive. The Khosla Committee, on a scrutiny of the estimates presented by the Hyderabad Government approved the Nandikonda project and recommended the project to be placed in the Five Year Plan. But this report was attempted to be suppressed from the time it came to the notice of the Planning Commission. It was done by vested interests. The authorities refused to publish the interim report. Then, there was an agitation which was conducted by not only one section of the Andhras but by the entire Andhras who demanded the publication of the Expert Committee Report. Having felt the pressure from all quarters of the Andhra for the publication of the Khosla Committee report, the authorities concerned made it public. After this Committee Report was before the Planning Commission, they wanted to delay the implementation of the recommendations of the Khosla Committee and called for a conference of Engineers of the States concerned. On 8th December, 1952, the Conference agreed on certain issues. As per the recommendations of the Khosla Committee, it was agreed that a complete investigation of the right side canal that is on the Madras side, must be made before the work is taken up. The time was fixed as ten months for

submission of the report after investigation. But the Madras Government is now conducting the investigation in such a way that it is being objected to at all points by the riparian owners there. It appears that the investigation is not as proposed by the Khosla Committee; it is highly suspicious. This investigation is expected to take them up to October. People are suspicious of the investigation. At one time it was said that the Madras Government was not intending to take up the Nandikonda project and they said they had nothing to do with that. At another time it was said that the Nandikonda project was proposed by the Hyderabad Government and the Madras Government has nothing to do with it and they said, 'we shall have the data from the Hyderabad Government'. At another time it is stated 'the issue of separation of the Andhra State is there, why not you wait till then when it is separated, the Andhra State will take it up'.

Now, curiously enough, it appears that the Planning Commission wants to delay this project and avoid the inclusion of this project in the Five Year Plan. In the report that is circulated today, it is said:

"Among the new projects which are proposed to be taken up for investigations in the coming year will be some in the Krishna Godavari and Pennar Basins. Investigations on these river basins will be in accordance with the recommendations made by the Khosla Committee appointed by the Planning Commission."

The Planning Commission, at a meeting held on the 20th January, 1953, have approved of the following investigations to be carried on during the period of the Five Year Plan. Item No. 2 is:

"Investigations regarding development of Krishna and Godavari Basin as recommended by Khosla Committee report to be started."

That is, now, the intention of the Commission is not to finish the investigation as per the directives issued at the Conference held on 8th December, 1952, but to start investigation during the Plan period; that means investigation will take them to the end of the Plan period. I do not know what made the Commission to change its view. I do not know what made the Commission to take two and a half years to complete the investi-

gation that was decided upon to be completed in ten months. This is the kind of bureaucratic planning we have. This is going back on the word given and this will lead to disastrous results. It is not safe, I say, to say one thing and then go back upon it. This is a deliberate attempt to delay the inclusion of the Nandikonda project in the Five Year Plan, which cause help relieve the famine conditions not only in Krishna valley but also to a marked extent to develop the industrial potentialities of Rayalaseema. They say in the Plan that development of agriculture will have the highest priority. But this delay means that it is not really the intention of the Planners to see that highest priority is given to it.

I have to point out one aspect on this matter. This Nandikonda project is a combination of many schemes. Siddhasram Nandikonda and Puhchintala this will cover the entire Krishna Valley. There is another part of it which is called Gandikota. It is also an essential part of the same scheme. But the Madras Government, in its anxiety to push through unproductive schemes of its own, the Krishna Pennar project, represented the Gandikota project to the Khosla Committee as a rehabilitation project under K. P. plan. When the Krishna Pennar project was rejected as unproductive the Gandikota project was also rejected by the Khosla Committee not because, it was, on its own merits found bad, but because K. P. plan was rejected. Therefore great injustice is done to the Rayalaseema people by not including the Gandikota project in the scheme of the Khosla Committee. Therefore, the error that has been committed may be rectified and Gandikota may be made part of the Nandikonda project. This project may be recommended for inclusion in the Five Year Plan and work may be taken up immediately.

Shri C. Bhatt (Broach): I am rising to support the Demands under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. I am speaking for the first time after waiting for a long year, and I thank you for the opportunity you have given me. I crave the indulgence of the House also, and trust that it will bear patiently with me and hear me also patiently. During the one year I have been here, I have been hearing orations, and every time I am reminded of a saying in Gujarati:

ગોલો ગોલી સડે તે નષ્ટે ઢાના કાન ચીમોકે

[Shri C. Bhatt]

There is a story about it. A husband and a wife belonging to the earthenware-producing community quarrelled amongst each other. The wife wanted to abuse the husband and the husband wanted to abuse the wife. We find more or less a similar phenomenon in this House. The Opposition wants to abuse the Government and the Government wants to say something in reply to the Opposition.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But who is the husband?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazari-bagh West): And who is the wife?

Shri C. Bhatt: Please bear with me patiently, and I will tell you that also.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Or is it still a matter of doubt?

Shri C. Bhatt: As I was saying, the husband and the wife wanted to abuse each other. There must be some object in common; so, they found out a donkey. One got to the right and the other to the left, and each of them took the donkey's ears and began twisting them, and abusing each other. This process went on endlessly to their heart's content. The same phenomenon we see here also. The Opposition every now and then proclaim that they want the Five Year Plan to be put into operation, but just like the animal in the story, the officers are the sufferers. They are always found fault with. The poor services are made to tool between the Government and the Opposition. The Opposition is always twisting the ears of the officers every now and then.

Now, I come to the point. All over India there are so many schemes, but the unhappy and unlucky district of Broach is not mentioned anywhere and the Narbada Project is absolutely left out. During the last fifty years, we have had several famines and scarcities, mostly due to either insufficient or want of timely rains. But absence of timely rainfall was not the only source of trouble. We have two rivers in the shape of Narbada and Dhadhar, which occasionally cause distress to my constituency by their floods. Over and above just mentioned causes, frost is also substantially responsible for bringing calamity to our agriculture. Locusts also play their part and add to our calamity. From the Famine Report of the Government of Bombay, during the last fifty years, we had famine and scarcity seven times: 1899-1900; 1901; 1911; 1918-1919; 1920-21; 1948-49 and 1951-52. Then

we had floods six times: 1927-28; 1929; 1934-35; 1942; 1944 and 1945. We had frosts three times: 1929-30; 1934-35; and 1939. Locusts afflicted us during 1930-31 and 1950-51. At this juncture, I should express my feeling of gratitude that whenever there was a calamity, the present Government has tried its best to relieve and mitigate the distress of the people, as much as it could; yet I regret to say that though it has done its best to afford relief, practically nothing has been done to prevent the distress. Here, I request the hon. Minister, in charge to prevent the disease itself and thus avert the periodical calamity that comes to my constituency.

When the other schemes were being included in the Five Year Plan, I do not know how the Narbada Project was overlooked. Narbada is a long river, having a 700 miles course, and it has great potentialities. I have got here the Report of the *ad hoc* Committee in connection with the investigations of the river valley projects. It is a Government document. This is what it says:

"The Narbada river has hitherto been considered as useless for being exploited for either irrigation, power or navigation, the latter beyond a small distance above its outfall into the Gulf of Cambay. In its course through the Broach district of the Bombay Presidency it frequently overflows its banks."

This gives a brief description of the river. Then the report goes on:

"A study of the topography has revealed that excellent storage sites exist both on the main river and on some of its tributaries were by constructing dams of medium heights, reservoirs of varying capacities can be formed to hold back the excessive precipitation of rain during monsoon months and utilise the supplies for purposes of perennial irrigation, power generation, extension of navigation, fish culture and supplies for domestic uses all over the basin."

The report itself says that the investigation is complete and the project reports are being prepared. So, everything is ready. Here and now I make an offer to the Minister in charge that if the Centre plays its part, if the State also plays its part then the people will play their part and give whatever help they are required to give. Not only that, but after getting

an assurance from the people, I stand here to say that if the Government wants money from the people, let them fix whatever quota they desire, and I am prepared to go to the people and beg from door to door and collect the money from my constituency. In any case, I want to see that the Narbada River Valley Project is taken up and completed. I request the Minister in charge to include this project and start work as soon as possible.

Shri Natesan (Tiruvallur): I would be as brief as possible because the debate is drawing to a close. First of all I would like to deal with the Damodar Valley system in so far as power supply is concerned. Here I have got a pamphlet called 'Damodar Valley Project: Its Programme, Progress and Perspective'. I find here an article by Dr. Sudhir Sen on why a thermal station has been put in Bokaro. If the facts are as stated and if this is really not intended for publicity, I consider that the Damodar Valley scheme has been a great achievement. But I find that the Bokaro Thermal Station will eventually have an installed capacity of 150,000 kilowatts. This represents a very large block of power and I cannot imagine that all this power can be consumed within the next four or five years. What I mean is there may not be a sufficient demand for all this block of power. And, apart from this, the Damodar Valley is also having a surplus power to the extent of 25,000 to 30,000 kilo-watts. I consider that before you have installed a large bulk of power you must see to it that arrangements are made for industries to come in so that all this block of power may be utilised.

I find in the same leaflet, in the shape of a message from the Chairman that "a complete scheme of insulation factory is ready". I should also refer to a small column which appeared in the *Madras Mail* about Mr. Walter Weldon, an American expert having left for India as United Nations Technical Assistance expert to advise the Indian Government on the setting up of a new plant for the manufacture of high tension insulators. With all the schemes on hand here, we have been importing such a lot of high tension insulators from all over the world, probably from Japan, America and England, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that you must see to it that this insulator business goes through as early as possible. Already we are importing a lot of fabricated steel. I found in the D.V.C. that all the steel came from either England or Italy. Of course there is a demand on the part

of all Members that we should not send our money to foreign countries, but it so happens that on every project we have to send our money outside for all the purchase that we have to make because we are dependent for everything on foreign countries. Therefore, if at least the insulator business goes through I shall be satisfied for the present.

Then in the case of Bhakra-Nangal it is proposed to have initially two power houses each having a capacity of 24,000 kilo-watts. I again consider that these are all over-optimistic ideas on the part of our experts. Well, I know that so far as the Power Wing is concerned there are excellent experts there, but I do not know how they have reconciled themselves to the fact that so much of power will be required in such short time.

Here in page 81 of the Explanatory Memorandum I find there is a tremendous provision made for electricity, four units of 93,000 kilo-watts on one side and eight units of 93,000 kilo-watts on the other side, and two power houses with three units having a capacity of 24,000 kilo-watts each. All this comes to about 1,188,000 kilo-watts of power. And then it is wound up here with this statement: "In their fully developed state the two power houses, at Nangal and the power house at Bhakra, will generate four lakhs kilo-watts of firm power at hundred per cent. load factor." I cannot understand how these two figures can be reconciled, and I would like the engineers to go through these figures and see whether this gives a correct representation of the bulk.

Of course there is the Hirakud project again. I find the same thing here, that there is so much block of power going to be raised there and there is no corresponding demand. It all seems to be on paper.

Turning now to my own constituency I should like to bring to the notice of the Planning Commission the very important necessity of looking into the requirements of the Madras Government in reference to the Periyar project. So far as Madras is concerned, I find that all the projects have been planned and sanctioned by the Madras Government on their own initiative before the Central Government thought of the Five Year Plan. In effect, the Plan merely includes all the schemes already under execution in the Madras State. Hon. Members are aware that there has been a serious shortage of electricity in Madras for the last six years, the monsoon has failed, and we are just now having a 66½ per cent. cut. Hon. Mem-

[Shri Natesan]

bers can understand how this will affect our production. Now the industrial and the agricultural consumers are greatly affected. If the industrial consumer is affected it means that a large number of labour is thrown out of employment and if labour is thrown out of work you can understand the excitement so far as wages are concerned and provision for work is concerned.

Apart from the Periyar project which has been put forward by the Government of Madras, there is also another project called the Kundah project which is supposed to start with a capacity of 75,000 kilo-watts for the present.

But as far as the Periyar project is concerned the whole thing has gone through the Central Water and Power Commission. They have okayed it and the plan is before the Planning Commission. I cannot understand why the Planning Commission has not taken it in the First Five Year Plan. I earnestly request that the Planning Commission should see that this project is taken up in the First Five Year Plan itself.

So far as the Kundah project is concerned, I believe that this has been sent back to the Government of Madras for some reference and it can probably be included in the second stage of the Five Year Plan.

There is insistent demand for power in South India. Since the rainfall has failed for the last few years the necessity has come now to see that we do not again have to cut all the electric power that is to be allotted to the people. For Bhakra Nangal, Damodar and Hirakud projects where proved demand is yet to mature and in some cases is very problematical, so many crores of rupees have been allotted and I do not see why South India should be treated differently.

Again I find that 2,000 tube-wells are being installed under the United States Technical Co-operation Administration Programme in the States of U.P., Bihar and Punjab. We had severe famine conditions in South India, and Madras, Ramnad, Tinnevely and other parts of South India are suffering today from famine. I seriously suggest to the Planning Commission that some arrangement be made, even if the request has not come from the Madras Government, to see that provision is made for tube-wells or bore-wells or artesian-wells, whatever is possible for the soil of South India. In the districts close by Madras also—and I come from one such district, namely Chingleput dis-

trict—there have been famine conditions. In these places small irrigation schemes have to come through. I have no doubt that the Planning Commission have in their sleeve, so to say, a sum of Rs. 30 to 40 crores to wangle. And I put it seriously to the Planning Commission and to the Minister in-charge of Planning that a substantial amount should be given to the Government of Madras.

Only one word more, Sir. Let me stress once again that this Periyar project must come through in the first Five Year Plan. There should be no question about it. And I cannot understand why money for this has not been provided, because it had been okayed by your Power engineers. But that is not going through. God knows when it is going to go through. If the monsoon fails again probably the 66½ per cent. we have at present may have to be made into a cent per cent cut. And that will deprive all the mill industry and the agriculture industry in that part of India. After all the whole thing has got to be considered as one unit. India should be considered as one unit and in the name of that regional unit I appeal to you to see that money is provided now without any further delay.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah (Garhwal Dist.—West cum Tehri Garhwal Dist. cum Bijnor Dist.—North): Sir, with your permission, I may put before the House certain facts regarding the Government's treatment towards my constituency people in Tehri-Garhwal District.

These people have not been selected for a Community Project while the neighbours of Kumaon District will have that advantage at the cost of nearly Rs. 60 lakhs in three years. Thus, my District is again forgotten or neglected. It is a matter of surprise why this area, which is very backward, has not been selected for a Community Project when there was great necessity and full scope for the same.

The land which is almost dry in spite of the two mighty rivers, Ganga and Jamuna, and many other streams running through the country, could have been enriched by this Project which would start various constructions, by using this water for irrigation, on various elevations, for growing crops as well as fruits. This Project would help in building the greatly needed roads without which nothing can possibly be achieved. Along the roads, the construction of equally needed bridges would automatically follow.

As I have already pointed out, the District has a web of streams but little advantage is drawn from them. They become uncontrollable during the monsoons causing a lot of damage to the land, cattle and even people. I will give a small example of how handicapped they are during the rains. A villager's son had gone across a stream to another village just before the rains started. Rains followed his departure, making it uncrossable for miles together. Meanwhile this boy was bitten by a snake resulting in his death. The father was not able to even attend his son's cremation as it was many days' journey to reach there by land while he could see across his only son's pyre burning. One frequently witnesses such cases of sickness and pathetic helpless deaths in these interiors as they are beyond the reach of any necessary and immediate help. There are no co-operative works in this district but they could easily be started. Various cottage industries which would provide a means of employment and livelihood for the people could also be started by this Project.

It is sometimes said that Government have to spend more money on this District than its income but it is not correct. Again, it should be remembered that the erstwhile Tehri-Garhwal State handed over, at the time of the merger, to the Government of U. P. assets worth about a crore of rupees. Besides, the State had no liabilities, though, strongly enough, a vague mention of this has been made in a letter from the hon. the Prime Minister in answer to one of mine in this connection. This money could be used for the betterment of this District even if it is not given the benefit of a Community Project at this stage when the Project has been started in 55 other places. Besides, the argument of less income does not hold good today when the Government policy is to raise the standard of living, with special attention, towards the more down-trodden and backward people. I am sorry to have to say that the steps towards raising the standard of my District, have been mostly taken by increasing the staff and creating unnecessary posts resulting in high expenditure.

In the hope that our turn will come next for a Community Project, I may make a few remarks.

(1) The group of three hundred villages is too little for, it will take a very long time, at this rate, to cover the whole country. The same amount of money should be spent on a much

larger area to give a quick return to the villagers in basic matters. Intensive work could be done later when the entire country has received basic help.

(2) A Community Project should be found on lines of the basic village uplift, as planned by Mahatmaji, and its institutions should become self-supporting after three years so that the Government does not have to go on paying Rupees two and a half lakhs year after year. Cottage industries should be encouraged and vocational training emphasised in schools, so that the village community may be able to produce its basic requirement and maintain its own institutions.

(3) Experts, after examining local conditions and consulting local inhabitants, should take local factors into account in selecting and deciding to experiment in suitable areas.

I shall now pass from the limited problems of Tehri-Garhwal to the more general and important questions of our country. The first point that I consider of great importance is afforestation for the purpose of firewood in our country. I have had the opportunity of travelling quite a bit in the West and have noticed that, wherever possible, afforestation was as common as growing grain; and this solved the problem of cooking as much as the crops solved the need of food. This was done despite the availability of other means like gas and electricity. But in our country, as far as I know, we have not thought of making any such arrangements with the result that, in the towns today the common man finds wood very expensive and in the villages, the poor farmers use the cowdung cakes as the cheapest means of cooking, thereby depriving the land of manure as well as injuring their health. Afforestation is not as yet as serious a problem in the hills which are clothed with forests but the point should be very seriously considered in relation to the plains. The question of land for plantation may arise but I think it can be solved by utilising the land on both sides along the rail road, for this purpose.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the status of women in our country. If our Constitution provides for equality of rights for men and women, this equality is only an ideal and we have a long distance to travel to reach that goal. In our villages, women are still treated as inferior beings and unless the village folk mentality improves, there is not much hope in this matter. Our educationists repeatedly affirm that if we educate the mother, we educate the whole

[Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah]

family. Yet women's education is not treated with the attention that it deserves. For every five boys, it is one girl that goes to school. This disparity requires to be rooted out and though it may sound somewhat strange to men, even military training may be made a compulsory part of women's education. After all, in times of distress, they should not prove a mere burden, to their men and country, but should be able to help and share everything equally with them. We have had in our history, brave and great women and not mere women who are so helplessly dependent on men today. If women are given a chance, there is no doubt that they will take a leading part in every walk of life and what is achieved in some countries, in the West, is not impossible in our country too.

I note that some provision is made for the advancement of women and children in the Five Year Plan. Once again I repeat that it is not enough to make plans only. It is essential to pursue our objectives with determination.

Now, I need not take up more time by giving more examples and suggestions as the Plan, though it may need changes to adapt it to various localities, has been drafted by experts and enthusiasts. All I can say is that we, the representatives of Tehri-Garhwal do feel that we have not been very successful in drawing the Government's attention towards us, as, even after being assured by the hon. the Chief Minister of U.P. of some help, we are flatly denied at the nick of time, by saying that there is no money. It is difficult to understand why, when there is enough money for some for the asking, and for schemes spread all over the country today, there is none for us even after the assurance. We seem to be fated only to watch our neighbours and others getting all the cream of the benefit while we are left out of it. This, naturally, has created a feeling of step-motherly treatment in the people's minds and I hope that necessary steps will soon be taken to help them before it is too late.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): I hope I will not be guilty of partiality if I were to pay my tribute to the Engineers of this country. They are a set of people who ought to be given preference to any other professionals, preference even over scientists and specialists in other walks of life and they deserve encomiums more than any one else in this country. The great responsibility of building this country, the great burden of making this country self-sufficient and prosperous rests on

the shoulders of these hard-working, honest, devoted Engineers who are today doing their utmost in order to raise the produce in this country, and in particular, who have engaged themselves in various irrigation schemes.

There is one thing of which I am particularly proud. Not only have we got good Engineers; not only have we got expert Engineers; but there are Engineers who have got the initiative, who can take courage and take adequate steps. Even though occasionally they may falter and even if occasionally they fail, they are shouldering the responsibility marvellously and it is high time that they deserve some bouquets rather than brick-bats. Engineers in this country, or as a matter of fact, in any other country, have to take considerable chances, considerable risks. The role of a critic is very easy; the role of a planner is very difficult. A planner with the best of vision, with the best of experience, with the best of knowledge has not got control over external factors which are not subject to his decision or desire. Therefore, planners often commit mistakes. But, the critics forget the French saying, *Tout le monde est sage apres coup*, which means, that everybody becomes wise after the event. They expect that the Engineers, when they are drafting, when they are planning, should have before them the whole thing as it is going to develop and that they should be in a position to sweep off all possible obstacles which may not be within their ken. Talking of the role of a critic, and belonging to the legal profession, I sincerely feel that the most difficult thing for a person, the most unenviable thing, is to be in the shoes of a Judge, and to sift evidence, and to apportion blame. That perhaps is the most difficult thing. The more so, when the evidence becomes conflicting, when there is a sharp cleavage, when there is a tug of war. Very often it is difficult to perceive who are the accused and who are the victims. Very often those who deserve to be in the dock like to play the role of complainants. I very much wish that those on whose shoulders rested the responsibility for drafting the report of the P.A.C. had before them some of the noble things uttered by the hon. Speaker in his inaugural address. He said, a few things to which I may allude: approach without antagonism; treat your witnesses as if they were gentlemen; do not start with suspicion. As you know very well, suspicion how-so-ever grave is no substitute for proof. Distrust begets distrust. Therefore, whenever an accusation is levelled

against a man who is supposed to be responsible, who is supposed to know things, give him his proper chance of defence. Do not jump to conclusions. When laymen begin to sit in judgment over experts, they are confronted with a very delicate and difficult task. I offer my praise to the Members of the P.A.C. who have taken pains, who have put in hard labour and they have come to considered conclusions. But, the best among us including the Members of the P.A.C., are fallible. Therefore, when I noticed in the report certain remarks, certain painful observations, my feeling was, pardon me for quoting a Latin maxim, *Audi alteram partem*, hear the other point of view, examine it, sift it, consider it and then step into his shoes and think, that if you were in that position, with the limited knowledge at your disposal, whether you would have committed the same mistake or you would have avoided committing of mistakes,

I may refer to certain observations in this report. For instance, on page 5, in para 12, it is stated:

"The Sub-Committee have been informed that stores of the value of about Rs. 5 crores were brought to Hirakud in a period of 6 months by the middle of 1948."

I wish that some one had checked this sentence. The truth appears to be that by the middle of 1948, stores even worth 48 lakhs were not even indented. Hardly stores worth 28 lakhs were indented. Possibly that is an error that has crept in.

An Hon. Member: 48 crores?

Shri Tek Chand: Five crores. By the middle of 1948, they were not even indented.

Shri B. Das (Jajpur-Keonjhar): It seems the hon. Member knows more than the Minister. This was the evidence given by the Irrigation Minister.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member is not giving way.

Shri Tek Chand: Then again, there were certain strictures passed against certain individuals. Certain individuals were as much as named. I very much wish that they were to consider themselves to be a committee of enquiry. They should have gone threadbare through the evidence. At least we might have had the advantage if a summary of the evidence were made available before some people who might be guilty and who might be innocent were tarred by one and the

same brush. As the very first sentence in the introductory speech proceeded, this was instituted at the instance of the Revenue department. The Revenue department has as much right to pick holes and find out the crannies where irregularities have been committed. If there are any irregularities, steps should be taken to see that they are not committed. If somebody is guilty of any serious dereliction of duty or conduct, he should receive condign punishment provided he has been given a fair chance to defend himself. That is absolutely necessary.

6 P.M.

In another place, I find some grievance being made about aerial ropeways. Regarding aerial ropeways, the position is this. Here is the material, you pick from the Disposals. You are anxious that you should have it. You are anxious that your aerial ropeway should be able to do the job with greater economy and greater speed. There is some error somewhere in the machine. It cannot function. Therefore, the idea is dropped, but it is not the duty of the Committee to find out whether those ropeways or their extensions have been utilized in the project or not. If they had been utilized, surely the loss must have been minimised. However, there are certain other criticisms levelled, I regret to say, that there ought to be demarcation of the functions of the respective officers. But we are proud to say that in this country we have an engineer—may be more—enjoying an international reputation, who has done work which is excellent. It is all very well for any one of us to stand up and criticise, but to the critics, in all humility, in all sweet reasonableness, I would say one thing: pray, go to some of these works that are in the process of development. Go to Bakhra and Nangal which place I had occasion to visit a short while ago, and see what good and noble work is being done.

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Ujjain): The Public Accounts Committee has seen.

Shri Tek Chand: Similarly, there is a remark.....(Interruption.)

All that I will ask the learned interrupter is not to mortgage his own intelligence. By all means examine it. I do not say the Public Accounts Committee's report is necessarily faulty, but I counsel moderation. I counsel circumspection. I advise, go-slow, and when you are called upon to sit in judgment over

[Shri Tek Chand]

the conduct of any particular officer, let him have all the facilities that the worst type of accused in this country can secure. Hear his story. (An Hon. Member: No!) When somebody shouted "No", he denies even the facilities that are available to the worst type of accused; he has no claim to consideration, no claim to fairness. All that I submit to him, is that the object of the Accounts Committee is to find out faults. It is a most necessary thing. We must know where...

Shri Radhelal Vyas: On a point of order, Sir, can the Public Accounts Committee's report and its object be discussed here on this Demand?

Shri B. Das: That is in the rules.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: He is going even into the objects of the Public Accounts Committee.

An Hon. Member: He is holding a brief.

Shri Tek Chand: I hold brief for fairness, for justice, for fair-play—not for prejudice, not for cliques, not for cuteness, not for clannishness.

Shri Nanda: I may, at the outset, express my deep appreciation of the tone and substance of the speeches in the course of this discussion, both on the side of the Opposition and the Members on this side. The speeches were at a highly constructive and objective level. I would not be able, in the time that I have, to deal with all the questions that have been raised. I will have, therefore, to restrict myself to some of the most outstanding questions.

At the outset, I would like to deal with the report of the Public Accounts Committee. I was asked at what I meant when I said that the report was placed on the Table of the House on the eve of this discussion. Did I mean that there was some motive in doing so? I categorically state I do not impute any motive at all to the Public Accounts Committee. I am assured that they had no intention to embarrass me, but it happened that I got very little time—not sufficient time—to study the contents of the report as they should be studied. The reports of these Committees—the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee—are of the highest importance for Parliament and for Government, and the views and recommendations made in these reports deserve most earnest consideration. Therefore, although I did

not get enough time, we immediately applied our minds to the most important part of that report—the recommendations. And, as hon. Members know—and it has been a matter of very great gratification to us that we were in a position to do so—we have accepted most of the recommendations because we are in hearty agreement with those recommendations. And some few have remained. They are being examined. I was asked whether, regarding the matters brought out in the report, we were going to take action. Specific mention was made of the question of the responsibility of certain officers, and whether we were going to take action against them. I made it clear—in the earlier statement that I made before the House that there are a lot of observations, and comments made in the report which we have not had enough time to study, and I would not be in a position to say now as to what precisely can be done about them. With regard to this specific question, my answer is that we have already taken action in some cases,—in one case particularly, very recently—and I must say that the action in this case was hastened by the work of the Public Accounts Committee. There are one or two other cases in which action depends upon certain procedures. I do not want to take up the time of the House. Sir, in going over the whole ground with regard to these recommendations.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): May I know on what items you are supposed to have taken action already?

Shri Nanda: I was just referring to the same subject. I have got a list of those recommendations. It will take too much time of the House if I go through the whole list.

Shri Raghavachari: I only want to know what are the items on which you have already taken action?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Give us the numbers of the recommendations at least.

Shri Nanda: I may state for example, some recommendations have been made about stores—procedure regarding stores. The recommendation has been in operation for some time because that matter had been under our own consideration for a considerable time. Similarly, there are other matters of procedure here in the first few recommendations. And there are other questions which relate to organizational matters. They are very important basic questions. And it would not be possible for

us to straightaway declare our policy in these matters. Even in this respect, we have been able to take prompt decision in one direction. This, relates to the bifurcation of the posts of the Financial Adviser and the Chief Accounts Officer. Some of the recommendations overlap the earlier recommendations of the Estimates Committee, as for instance, the one which suggested that the post of the Chairman of the C.W.P.C. should be separated from that of any secretariat post. That recommendation has been accepted already. Further it was stated repeatedly that if we attached sufficient importance to the Hirakud Project, we should assign to it a whole-time chief engineer. It has already been decided that an arrangement should be made on this basis. Owing to certain difficulties, it was not possible to do so before.

I may, before I proceed, express my appreciation of the remarkable thoroughness with which the Committee has done its work. It has taken notice of everything wrong that might have occurred, and every shred of error or irregularity which came to its notice has been embodied in this report. It is an exhaustive report, and a very helpful report. It has been unsparring in the apportionment of blame. I appreciate it for that, not necessarily that I agree, in respect of the judgments on various events or persons. As I said before, I have a differing point of view regarding some of these matters. I will have to bring them up in the course of these remarks, just to be able to disabuse the minds of any Members here or the outside public regarding some expressions of opinion contained in the Report. I must say here that the Ministry had no opportunity to have a look at the draft of the report, and was therefore not in a position to offer its comments. If that had been done, may be, these differences would have been narrowed down very greatly.

Before I take up those few individual matters, for clarification, I want to make a few general observations. The first thing I have to submit is that I do not approach this task of making a reply in any spirit of advocacy. I do not want to belittle or minimise any lapses or wrongdoing that might have occurred. On the contrary, I would say it is my intention to bring out myself, more than the Committee has done, if anything has occurred, and I would not refrain from doing so because of any considerations of the prestige of any depart-

ment of the Government of India or any officer of the Government. Negligence in performance of duty would be wrong anywhere. But there can be no forgiveness for any one who neglects his duty on these projects. These projects are the very substance of the Five Year Plan. On the success of these projects the solution of our problem of food shortage depend, as also the economic progress of the country generally. While I say that, I must also make this plea that we should, while making an appraisal of the work of these projects, see things in their proper perspective, and view these in their right proportions, in relation to the magnitude of the work that is being done. If that is done, then there certainly is no room for complaint. I owe it to the House to acknowledge that there have been some mistakes and irregularities, and I feel very unhappy about them. And I want to make it very clear that even though I regard them small in proportion to the whole situation, that is not and in fact, should not, be a reason for not taking any action, the fullest and most drastic, against any of those people who are involved in those irregularities. What one hon. Member on that side said would however lead one to believe that several crores of rupees were going down the drain. He said that it was a disgraceful and deplorable picture, making it appear as if most of the officers were incompetent and bad, and nothing good going to come out of these projects. I must say that that is an exaggerated and overdrawn picture.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I just point out one thing, Sir? When I said disgraceful and deplorable, I do not see how the officers are concerned there. The fact of the matter is that no progress has been made. If the hon. Minister denies that, then of course, I am wrong, but I did not attack the officers. It is not my job to do that.

Shri Nanda: What I was aiming at was that there should be no sweeping condemnation. The irregularities are there. If we look at them, what do we find? What we are concerned with, after all, here is how they affect expenditure, and how they affect the cost of the project. I have tried to look into these. I find that if we take out the subsidiary dam—for that, I have to say something—the entire aggregate amount involved in all these irregularities will be a few lakhs of rupees. We have already spent

[Shri Nanda]

about Rs. 25 crores on the Hirakud Project. It is good that we take this lesson to heart, for many more crores are going to be spent on Hirakud, where we will have to apply this experience to avert any further loss. Though I do not want to condone the loss of a pie, it should be kept in mind that the added cost on account of all this: may be a fraction of a per cent. Therefore, let us not talk as if quite a large scale wastage has occurred in relation to the work that is being done.

Then about persons. This alleged that officers not of the right type were appointed and they misbehaved. How many such cases? We have got large numbers of officers engaged all over and out of them four or five such cases have been found. Of those cases also two were displaced persons from the old North West Frontier Province. They were recommended by the Home Ministry. And when the Administration found that they were not conducting themselves satisfactorily, their cases were immediately reported to the Home Ministry and their services were dispensed with. These are two of the five cases. And then on the rest, action was taken. One person was acquitted in a court of law. Regarding the others police investigations are in progress. There was the case of the Chief Engineer who did not carry out the directions of the Ministry and the CWINC and kept them in the dark—and thus arose this question of estimates without sanction and various other irregularities for a period. That Chief Engineer has been removed. He was withdrawn from that place. His previous record did not warrant any inference that he was such a bad person. We have known of people in other walks of life who have occupied high places and some time, they began to show another strain in their character. This was the position—just a few cases.

After a fairly prolonged stay at Hirakud and a very close observation of the work that is being done there, I am able to say about Hirakud and I am able to say about the other projects, from all the material that is with me, that these projects are in very good shape. I can say that these projects are making satisfactory progress. I will say further, that these projects will render a good account of themselves in the programme of amelioration of the lot of the people of this country. These projects have been under constant

observation, and scrutiny. All eyes are cast on them and, therefore, anything—any little thing—that happens there becomes public property. And it is good. But at any rate, when we are judging these projects and all those charges and allegations, let us keep in mind that the same things, are repeated every time this question arises—the sleepers and bullocks.

I was told by the hon. Member Shri Sarangadhar Das, that last year I made some statements in the House which now the Public Accounts Committee find to be not justified. I do not agree with that. I made no such statement. What did I say about the sleepers? I said there was urgent need. Regarding the sleepers question, I have laid on the Table this afternoon a very detailed statement covering the whole question in all its aspects. That aspect—urgency—is not disproved. But what has come out is that a premium was paid when it should not have been. Now, very probably what the Public Accounts Committee have said is correct, though we have referred the matter to the Punjab Government officers for a further examination of it. If this premium was wrongly paid and there was any corruption, we will take action in a suitable manner. Even if it were not corruption but irregular expenditure, we should take departmental action.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

We have already done so in fact. That man concerned is no longer with us. His services have been terminated and we will proceed against him if anything further is found.

Then the other case—of bullocks. On that what I said at that time—I have got the record before me—was that some she-buffaloes were alleged to have been imported along with the others and paid for from the project in order that those Engineers might have an abundant supply of milk. I said that so far as the records of the Government were concerned, I did not find that any payment had been made for any she-buffaloes. That was what I said then and I stand by it. I never said then that no irregularities had occurred.

What I am concerned with more is the future. The Members here are within their rights in criticising all that has happened, however remote it may be. It is the duty of the Government to take adequate action

also regarding these matters. But it is not sufficient that these Engineers do not make mistakes. These Engineers have been called upon to achieve things, achieve results, and while we take suitable action regarding any person who is found to be a transgressor, we should at least see to this—that in regard to the hundreds of Engineers who are engaged in the execution of these major projects, we do nothing to demoralise them, to bring down their morale.

I may say another thing in this connection. I hope hon. Members have noticed the fact that most of these things relate to an earlier period. I should think that most of the irregularities occurred before April/May 1951. After that nothing has been brought to anybody's notice. Now, when I mention this fact, I do not mean to let it be inferred that I want to say that I was not personally associated at that time. I take full responsibility for whatever occurred in the past, for ascertaining the facts, for locating the responsibility and for taking action. We have now to see whether during this period we were alert and alive and done all that was required to be done. Have we taken action? On that score I have a very satisfactory record to put before the House. This action was not started by me. Before I came action had been initiated and I took it up and pursued it. I introduced various other measures. It will take time to explain all the steps that have been taken. Several committees were set up, special officers were appointed to investigate and report and various organisational improvements were made. Apart from the question of irregularities, the whole stores system at Hirakud has now been brought to a very highly satisfactory condition. The accounts there are still not in good condition and we have to give our urgent attention to it.

Considering the difficulties we have experienced in the matter of personnel etc. we have possibly undertaken a little too much. Possibly in a highly optimistic mood we started several projects and did not take into account all that we were going to contend with. Too much was taken for granted. The availability of funds and personnel was not taken into account fully. It was considered that we will set things right as we go on; and who can say that it would have been better not to have started those and to have waited for some years. Naturally, in the earlier stages, there was some lack of co-ordination. But very

steady improvement has occurred and I am able to say that now the state of affairs is satisfactory. There is still considerable scope for improvement and every day we are trying to do better.

In respect of personnel, we are trying to have a pool, and provide better training so that as we go along we can execute a number of projects hereafter. We are experiencing difficulties at the Bhakra Nangal project. We have to go out throughout the country begging for Engineers. A great deal of dilution has occurred. Officers are having responsibilities at levels which they would not have attained in many years yet and we have to suffer for that.

We are also dealing with the question of materials. If the Bhakra Nangal project does not get adequate cement, it will not be possible to run the canals next year as scheduled. These things are being attended to. They are important things.

As I said already, there has been improvement of late and that too steadily. I want to say one thing which has given me a great deal of happiness—I am not airing anything which is a domestic matter. It is a well known fact that there has been what the Public Accounts Committee called a "perpetual dispute" between the Engineers and the Finance people over-period. It was vitiating the atmosphere of the Hirakud project. But very fortunately we have been able to solve this problem and I must give some credit to the Public Accounts Committee for that. Under the stress of its recommendations it came about earlier. It had to come about anyhow. We have been able to arrive at an understanding which has a very important bearing on the future of these projects, on the economic execution and speedy progress of these projects. We have settled some of these differences and we have found a way of dealing with what remains. The Irrigation and Power Ministry will accept the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in the matter. I am absolutely sure that he will take into account the difficulties of the engineers fully. The object of the engineers is that they want speedy action, they want to get things done; but Finance wants to make sure that money is not lost. Both these objectives are desirable and I am sure that the Comptroller and Auditor General would be able to reconcile these and solve difficulties experienced by engineers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: On a point of information, Sir. Simply because there was shortage of men and material should corruption be condoned?

Shri Nanda: Hon. Members will bear me out that I inserted that action has to be taken in these cases and it has to be drastic action. I said not a plea of loss or wastage should be condoned.

One thing which is exercising the minds of hon. Members here and outside is the fact that our estimates are being revised upwards, by leaps and bounds. Therefore, it appears as if all that rise represents some kind of maladministration, waste or corruption. Possibly the idea is that what was intended to be done at a certain rate of expenditure is going to be now accomplished at double the cost, because of mismanagement. When estimates go up, two things might happen. Either the financial returns go down or the benefits which the people have to receive in the shape of water for the fields and power for industries etc. will become more costly. It may be that if the prices have risen all round, the benefits can be paid for at higher prices. More rates can be paid for water; more price can be paid for power, though it should always be our effort to keep down the prices. It may also be that for some reason we are not able to charge the full price. Then the financial return goes down. We should avoid it. The question is: what is this rise in estimates due to? If, during the course of a few years, because the value of money depreciates, because the prices of materials rise, the prices of machinery rise, or because wages rise, the cost of an estimate goes up, who is to blame? We are taking up so many other projects on the same basis. In the first place, we cannot predict the course of prices. Even if we had known that prices were rising, we might not have been able to stop taking up these projects to the extent the rise in estimates is due to the price having increased, there is a valid explanation.

Then, what are the other factors? Another factor may be that the scope of the benefits has increased. We find sometimes that it is possible to extend irrigation or power cost, at much less than proportionate cost. Against this increased cost there is something to show in the shape of more benefit and there should be no reason to look askance at this aspect of the increase in estimates.

There may be other factors too for example the designs have been changed. Unforeseen contingencies may

arise. In the course of the construction of dams, it may be that you strike on foundations which your previous investigations did not prepare you for and therefore you have to put in much more work. If estimates rise apart from all these factors, and simply because the engineers had not made their investigation properly or had not taken due care in other respects, then they are to blame. But this rise in estimates is not a phenomenon confined to this country. I have information about various dams constructed in other countries and I have found several instances of very heavy increases in estimates.

India is a poor country and it has limited resources. Therefore, the greatest caution has to be observed in choosing our projects. It may be that a project is good for various purposes, but we have to apply our resources in the most economical manner and if any investigations are not perfect and adequate and for that reason we adopt one project whereas another more paying project has to be left out, that will be something which will be interpreted as a misuse of the resources of the country.

I now take up the question of progress. We have been told again and again that these projects are not moving ahead. I have gone into this question also, and I find that although the first steps were not quite sure, we have gained confidence and organised ourselves in a manner that I can assure the House that the schedules which are now being declared are going to be adhered to. So far as the past is concerned, whatever money was allotted to these projects was spent. It may be that our financial resources did not permit of larger allotments.—How much more time will I have, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Demands must be finished by seven o'clock, and I must have at least a few minutes before seven o'clock, so that I will have to put the cut motions to the vote of the House. At seven o'clock, I have to start the half-an-hour discussion. So, he can have ten minutes more.

Shri Nanda: That means—and I believe it is just as well—that I will not be able to deal with all that material in the Public Accounts Committee Report concerning specific matters, at this stage. I am bound to have other occasions. I will find a way to put the whole thing, so far as it concerns my Ministry, in the correct perspective.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The practice is that whatever remains still to be said by the hon. Minister may be put in the form of a memorandum and circulated.

Shri Nanda: I accept with thanks this very kind suggestion.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it suggested by the hon. Minister that he has yet to say certain things by way of contradiction or amendment of whatever has been stated in the Public Accounts Committee Report?

Shri Nanda: There are some factual matters.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareilly Distt.—East): We have had enough of the P.A.C. Let us have something of planning.

Shri Nanda: Planning is a subject that comes up again and again. We are going to have discussion on planning sometime later when we will put before the House our report of the progress of implementation.

Shri A. P. Sinha (Muzaffarpur East): But it is not Hirakud alone that the hon. Minister is supposed to discuss. Last year in the Budget, he had almost ninety minutes for Hirakud alone. It was a limit to our patience, and this year, he has taken almost fifty minutes on Hirakud, but there are other projects in India over which the hon. Minister presides.

Shri Nanda: I have not given too much time to Hirakud. I have made general observations which apply not only to Hirakud but to all projects which are of general importance regarding irrigation and power matters.

Shri A. P. Sinha: It is a limit to our forbearance.

Shri Nanda: I believe what is in the hearts and minds of these friends is that they have certain projects which they want to promote. They have a certain idea of deficiencies so far as their areas are concerned. They want to know from me what is going to be done about those things. Even if I had twenty hours before me, I would need only five minutes to answer that question. The answer is this. Irrigation and power planning is a part of the overall planning of the country. It is a very important segment, but the resources available for it are after all limited. There is the complaint made by the hon. Member

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Dr. Saha that we have not given enough for steel, industrialisation etc. If I were answering his question, I would say: what are we to do? People are telling us to do so many things, but we do not have all the resources that we need for this plan. Will he ask me to cut down irrigation? He will not do that. What shall we cut? We have done for irrigation as well as we could do. Some of these projects were already there and the rest that have been included were on the basis of priorities. We have given thought to all this. We have included some projects in the Plan to be taken up towards the end of the period of the Plan or in the course of it, to be continued later on in the next five year period. And it would not be possible for me to say with respect to all these various demands that have been made, that they will be included in the Plan, unless hon. Members and others in the country go round and enable us to raise loans on a much larger scale than we have provided for and make the people save on a scale which may be four or five times what we have anticipated. Then it may be possible to bring in new projects, but not till then.

I would not like to trespass the limits that you have set for me. I have just a few words to add regarding certain questions which were raised in the context of the cut motion about Planning. The point was made that we are doing too little for minor irrigation. We do not believe that it is so. We made a provision of Rs. 77 crores originally and later on we have specially added Rs. 15 crores. And I believe that this will be utilised to very great advantage. Both major and minor irrigations have a part to play. They have got their respective spheres of utility.

There was a question about having an all-India Grid. It is a very good idea. The Planning Commission has practically recognised the utility of of a system connecting the power generated in all parts of the country. Only it takes time to develop to that stage. We must first try to link up the power developed in various regions. And certainly the time will come when we will inter-link all of them throughout the country.

Regarding industrialisation there is this complaint—the hon. Member Dr. Saha pointed out—of steel and iron not being given full attention, I must say that what he has said is true, that is we need much more steel and iron in this country. But it is not true that we are not giving attention to

[Shri Nanda]

this question. We are. After all for a project of this kind we need very heavy investment and we are trying to do our best with our resources get and with such help as we can secure.

Sir, I have just one minute for me according to the limit set for me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may take three more minutes. After all I just wanted time to put the cut motions and the demands to the vote of the House.

Shri Natesan: May I ask the hon. Minister.....

Shri Nanda: Now he is going to take those minutes!

Shri Natesan: May I ask the hon. Minister to kindly say a word about the Periyar project about which South India is so much interested? I would put a definite question why this project has not been taken up by the Planning Commission although the scheme has been okayed by the Power Wing of the Central Water and Power Commission.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members cannot go on in that way. There are hundreds of projects all over the country.

Shri Natesan: May I observe that in this particular case the scheme has been there for such a long time, it went through all the Departments here in the Government of India, and I cannot understand why when several crores of rupees are being spent in North India ten crores of rupees cannot be spent for South India? I want to know from the hon. Minister.

Shri Nanda: Whatever I have already stated covers that. These two minutes are over and I shall therefore conclude. I will just say one word in the end. I regard these river valley projects as the symbol of the will of the nation to conquer the poverty which has been afflicting this country. These projects are going to our sheet-anchor in fighting poverty and economic backwardness, and therefore I must assure the House that anything which is connected with these projects will get our best attention. Every possible effort will be made that in respect of projects, which are consuming such a lot of our resources and where such heavy investment is being made, the planning is perfect, that the organisation is placed on the soundest footing and that

every pie that is devoted to these projects is made the best use of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I will put all the cut motions to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper in respect of Demands Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 129 and 130 be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND NO. 61—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,28,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND NO. 62—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS (MET FROM REVENUE).

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND NO. 63—MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,78,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of pay-

ment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND No. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,12,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and Expenditure under the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND No. 129—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MULTIPURPOSE RIVER SCHEMES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,48,19,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Multipurpose River Schemes'."

DEMAND No. 130—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,74,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1954, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

IMPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): I am raising this discussion to focus the attention of this House on the callous, step-motherly attitude of this Government towards coconut growers in this country in general and the millions of coconut growers in my part of the country, that is Travancore-Cochin State and Malabar district of Madras State, in particular. Why I say so is because the hon. Minister revealed in Parliament last month that the Government is pursuing a policy of substantially reducing the duties on import. The information which he disclosed shows that "the standard and preferential rates of import duty on copra have been reduced from 36 per

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cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem* and from 24 per cent. *ad valorem* to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* respectively from 1951-52."... "The standard and preferential rates of import duty on coconut oil have also been reduced in the above period from 40 per cent. *ad valorem* to 31.25 per cent. *ad valorem* and from 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 21.00 per cent. *ad valorem* respectively." Consequent on this reduction the prices of copra have been falling. Sometimes they fall very steeply, rise again, then fall and rise again with the result that there is no security for the coconut grower. He does not know what is going on, what his produce will fetch. This must be viewed from a different angle so far as Travancore-Cochin and Malabar districts are concerned because, from the reports of the Coconut Committee, you will see out of a total estimated yield of 326 crores, of nuts, Travancore-Cochin and Madras have about 286 crores. It works up to a percentage of 85. You know in Travancore-Cochin the conditions are so peculiar that almost every household depends to a large measure on coconut trees. It is a most dominating factor in the economy of Travancore-Cochin State and Malabar. With the vicissitudes in prices, it is quite natural that the people are very often hit below the belt. This has been done systematically to encourage the industrial monopoly.

This morning I found that in the Council of States the hon. Minister for Commerce answered a question from the hon. Member Mr. Imbichhi Bava. He was asked as to the quantity of exports for certain periods and he has given some figures from which it is seen that 23,019 cwts of soap were exported in 1950, 39,547 cwts were exported in 1951, for 1952 it was 54,878 cwts. For 1953, of course, only one month's figure is known to them and the most significant aspect is that official statistics do not give the name of exporters and manufacturers and the information is therefore not available. I do not know how I can reconcile this with the statement made by the Minister last year in reply to my speech on the Commerce budget when he said categorically—

"I am sure that this Government has complete control over every industry whether owned by foreigners or Indians."

This is what he said on the 17th of June last year. Having said that the Government now say they do not have figures. But in answer to certain sup-