

irrigation and power, was being spread over long periods and every effort should be made to speed up the completion of projects likely to yield early benefits. The earlier suggestion was repeated in the recent meeting of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power. It is receiving consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise at this stage.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know, Sir, when this decision will be finalised?

DR. K. L. RAO: It will take some time because it has to receive very careful attention and so many aspects have got to be examined. I would not be able to give the exact time. But I hope it will be ready in time for the Fourth Plan.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know, Sir, what is the test of the major irrigation scheme? Is it the amount of expenses incurred or the capacity for irrigation? What will be the test of the major irrigation projects?

DR. K. L. RAO: The major projects are those which cost more than Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know, when the Central Government takes up a major source of irrigation, it will also have the power to impose the necessary betterment fees and irrigation charges so that the Central Government may not be left to carry the baby on its own?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is a good suggestion. We will take it up for consideration.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Do the Government propose to incur all the expenditure on major irrigation and do the Government propose to settle the disputes regarding allocation to the States the waters of Krishna and Godavari before taking up the major irrigation by the Centre?

DR. K. L. RAO: May I say that the question here is not that Centre are going to take up every major irrigation. The only question that has been taken up is—there are some very large projects sanctioned in the country like Gandhak, for example, where the amount of investment has to be very large and it is beyond the capacity of the State to complete the project in time—and whether in the national interest such projects should be taken over. Here it is more a question of extra financial allocation, not even of execution and that is the point that is receiving attention. Regarding the allocation of waters, I do not think it comes in here but I may assure the hon. Member that the Krishna-Godavari problem is receiving very earnest attention and will, I hope, be resolved soon.

ELECTRICITY DUTY

*273. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to advise the State Governments to share the electricity duty proceeds with State Electricity Boards; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the proposed advice?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR K. L. RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SURPLUS MACHINERY AT TUNGABHADRA DAM SITE

*274. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of surplus machinery lying at the Tungabhadra Dam site since the completion of the Project in 1954; and

(b) whether any part of this machinery has been utilized for other projects?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO):

(a) Only the dam proper was completed in 1954. Work on canals and distributaries which also form part of the projects, have been in progress even after 1954. The value of machinery released on account of the completion of the dam is about Rs. 79 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. Part of this machinery is being transferred to other projects.

PERMANENT MAGNETS LTD.

*275. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a factory working under the Permanent-Magnets Ltd., Bombay has ceased functioning;

(b) if so, from which date it stopped working; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) No, Sir. M/s. Permanent Magnets Ltd., Bombay have not ceased functioning.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know, if they are functioning, what has been the scale of their production? What have they produced after they were given a licence for 14.7 lakhs last year?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Their production in October-December 1962 was 12,637 numbers and in January-October 1963 it was 567,774 numbers.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Is it a fact that the said concern has informed the

Government that they want to sell the concern and whether the Government have given sanction after issuing the licence for 14.7 lakhs?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether it is a fact that the majority of the shares held in this company has been sold to some other concern now and that concern is in charge of this company and, if so, would there be any improvement in the working of this company?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The production is going on as per expectation. About the change of holdings, we have no information.

*276. [The questioners (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria and Shri Mohal Lal Saksena) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 2122-24 infra.]

COMMITTEE ON COST REDUCTION

*277. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Cost Reduction study has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the Committee regarding rehabilitation of uneconomic and inefficient units; and

(c) what is the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (c) The Experts Committee on Cost Reduction Studies undertakes intensive study of cost structure of specific export commodities and makes suitable recommendations with a view to devise ways and means of reducing the cost of production of those commodities to make them more competitive in overseas markets. The Committee has submitted a report on cotton textiles which is now under consideration of Government.