

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Their activities will be confined to these three lines which I have quoted just now.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the additional cost, if any, that is likely to be incurred on account of the new set-up?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I do not have the exact break-up of figures, but it is all included in the cost.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, the additional financial cost of getting up this organisation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: As the House is aware, a lot of money is going to be spent and approximately 500 miles of new lines are to be constructed and for this it is necessary to have a proper set-up.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: What about the additional cost?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not have the additional cost. Next question.

MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION CANALS OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

•358. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation authorities have decided to hand over the maintenance of the irrigation canals to the Government of West Bengal;

(b) if so, for what reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that some differences have cropped up between the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Government of West Bengal on certain aspects of transfer and if so, what are they; and

(d) how the dual responsibilities are expected to be discharged?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L.

HATHI): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes.

(b) The reasons for the transfer of the canal system to the Government of West Bengal are: —

(i) to avoid duplication of the maintenance of staff by the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Government of West Bengal for the irrigation system;

(ii) to avoid dilution of responsibility for proper working of the canal system; and

(iii) for proper utilisation of irrigation facilities created by the Damodar Valley Corporation.

(c) No.

(d) Maintenance and operation of dams in the Upper Valley will continue to be the responsibility of the Damodar Valley Corporation. Water for the purpose of irrigation will be released by the DVC on the basis of indent received from the Engineers of the Government of West Bengal. Retail distribution to the cultivators and other consumers is to be done by the State Government.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: The statement says that there has been absolutely no difference between the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Government of West Bengal. May I know, Sir, whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to a statement recently published in some papers that on account of certain supervisory charges, there have been some differences between the Government of West Bengal and the Damodar Valley Corporation, and whether it is a fact?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: No, Sir. There is no such difference of opinion.