

the U.P. Government since 1953 has taken up a voluntary scheme, not in the Block areas but in the urban areas of the State.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, why the U.P. Government have not been able to introduce this scheme in rural areas?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It is probably due to financial difficulty involved there.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Were the financial implications of the scheme pointed out to the State Government in this connection in any instructions issued by the Central Government?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Yes, Sir.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know, Sir, if the Government have thought it necessary to commend the example of Madras where the scheme of providing midday meals for children is financed entirely by the population of the State?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Madras is doing really wonderful work as far as this scheme is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not fishing for a compliment.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: But I do not know whether it is possible for every State to accept that arrangement.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Not even in Andhra?

(No reply)

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Keeping in view the limited resources of States like Uttar Pradesh, is the Government thinking of subsidising or giving additional grant for such schemes like midday meals?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: As far as the Harijans are concerned, the Centre is bearing 50 per cent. contribution. As

far as the other children of poor sections are concerned, it is more or less on a voluntary basis like the Madras scheme.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that the scheme has been introduced in the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh. May I know, Sir, whether his Ministry has any information as to how this scheme is working?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: We have no information as far as urban U.P. is concerned.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme of free midday meals for village school children is based on needs or is it open to all?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: By and large on needs.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: May I know, Sir, how much is the expenditure per head on the food supplied to the children, and what type of food is given, whether it is tinned food or cooked food also?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: We do not have details about this.

CONFERENCE OF IRRIGATION EXPERTS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*497. SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of irrigation experts of India and Pakistan which was called to meet at Delhi in the end of June last, discussed the Farakka Barrage Project; and

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has agreed with our stand that apart from increasing the flow of water to the Hooghly river and saving the port of Calcutta from decay, the project would benefit the internal waterways of East Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: In view of the importance of this project to the port of Calcutta—to save it from further decay—and to the supply of water to the city, has the Planning Commission included this scheme in the Third Five Year Plan?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: This question relates to the Conference between the experts of India and Pakistan. About the Farakka Barrage there was no decision. The Planning Commission is considering it.

DR. A. N. BOSE: May I know, Sir, in what stage is the other project now? Is it still at the stage of study and observation or is there any concrete division about its working?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Investigation work is going on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Previously when this question was raised, the hon. Minister said that there are some difficulties on account of the attitude of the Pakistan authorities in this matter. With a view to expediting the launching of the execution of this project, may I know, Sir, whether this question was taken up with the Pakistan authorities for a final solution or whether this dispute or controversy is still outstanding?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In this meeting there was no question of taking up the question about the position of the Barrage. The question was only about settling the procedure about exchange of data for certain projects.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir. We were given to understand that even the working of the Project was contingent upon some kind of understanding and agreement with the Pakistan authorities. May I know

whether that matter was kept in view when this kind of meeting was held?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: At this meeting that was not discussed.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether this contemplated barrage does not come within the jurisdiction of India and, if so, what is the difficulty in harnessing these waters inside India?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is within the jurisdiction of India no doubt.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do I take it that, in spite of what Pakistan may or may not feel about its rights in the matter, the Government will proceed with the project and see that it is implemented as soon as possible?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not know whether there will be much difficulty.

INCONVENIENCE OF PASSENGERS FROM THE NORTH TO KERALA

*498. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the great inconvenience caused to the passengers travelling from North India to Kerala and South Canara due to the necessity of having to get down at Madras Central;

(b) whether there have been any demands for attaching a few through coaches from Delhi to Cochin; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) As the transshipment at Madras Central Station is during convenient day light hours, much inconvenience is not caused to passengers to Kerala and South Canara.

(b) Yes, Sir.