

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: As the House is aware, there is no question of any river valley project being a Central Project as such, because the projects are being executed by the State Governments. Of course, loans are advanced to various States for the various projects and that way for this Nagarjunasagar Project also loans are being advanced.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Is there a firm decision of the Government that no river valley project will be considered as a Central Project or a Central Government undertaking?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: No project is being executed by the Centre as a Central Project. Hirakud was being executed and now that has also been handed over to the Orissa Government.

DR. R. B. GOUR: If Hirakud was handed over to the Orissa Government, does it mean that all the liabilities would also have been handed over to the State Government?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The amount was given as a loan to the Orissa Government but because it was a big project and because there was not sufficient administrative and technical machinery, the Central Government executed it.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Is it not a fact that the Andhra State Government is hard-pressed for money and due to that a lot of work is pending and it is postponed indefinitely every year?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The total provision for the project in the Second Five Year Plan was about Rs. 32 crores and the Centre will see that that amount is provided during this Plan period.

•49 to »51. [*Postponed to the 19th April, 1960.*]

SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

•52. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Agricultural Commodities* Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, what functions are likely to be assigned to the Committee at distinct from the sectional assignments to the different Departments of the Ministry; and

(c) how the interest of the agriculturists, especially of the actual producers, is proposed to be represented on the proposed body?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAFPA): (a) to (c). No decision has yet been arrived at on the proposal to set up an Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a Press report that recently appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' that such a Committee is being set up to advise the Government on fixation of price* of agricultural commodities and, if so, whether there is any truth in it?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The Press has a right to indulge in wishful thinking. Often it is helpful.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government while considering the setting up of such a Committee is thinking of taking agricultural interests in the Committee or will it be purely an official body?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: I had made it clear that whenever such a Committee is appointed, my conception is that there must be some amount of representation for the agriculturists too.