

the Rajya Sabha on the 20th April, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to assume powers similar to those under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for proper management of plantation industries; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). Government are actively considering the desirability of assuming powers similar to those under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

SHRI S. C. DEB: What would be the procedure that would be adopted if such taking over is decided upon?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: First of all, legislation has got to be passed in both the Houses of Parliament before powers can be taken.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it true that the Plantation Enquiry Commission has not recommended anything about taking over the plantation industry?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The Commission has not specifically recommended about it but it has made mention of the fact that powers may be taken.

RE-THINKING ON DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

*20. SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the *Statesman*, Calcutta edition, dated the 24th June, 1959, to the effect that many officials of the Dandakaranya Development Authority

are convinced that "re-thinking on practical lines" is needed to ensure the success of the Dandakaranya Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been set-backs in relation to land reclamation and rehabilitation of displaced persons in the Dandakaranya Project; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) Certain targets were laid down for reclamation of land and the number of displaced families to be moved to Dandakaranya by July, 1959, for work and ultimate resettlement. These targets were not achieved.

(c) The various factors impeding the progress of the scheme were considered in detail by the Dandakaranya Development Authority at its meeting on July 6, followed by a meeting of the Members of the Dandakaranya Development Authority with the Ministry on July 10. Certain bottlenecks were removed and steps were taken to formulate plans so that satisfactory progress might be achieved after the monsoon.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that on January 23, Mr. Khanna, the Rehabilitation Minister, announced that 2,25,000 acres of land had been reclaimed in that area and that on the 31st March 1959, a Special Correspondent of "The Statesman" visiting that area reported that only 14,000 acres had been reclaimed?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: As far as I remember, Mr. Khanna did not say that land had already been reclaimed. Mr. Khanna, as far as I remember, mentioned that figure of acreage as the target figure to be achieved. As far as the latter part of the question

is concerned, about the report in "The Statesman", I have not read it but I do not think it is true.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government announced, and the Prime Minister very much backed it up, that within January or February, about thirty thousand refugees would be sent to that area, that thereafter the camps in West Bengal would be closed down and that anybody not desiring to go would be denied their doles?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: Sir, it was announced that the 31st July 1959, would be the target date to remove all the camp inmates of West Bengal to Dandakaranya and other places outside West Bengal. That was the target but that target could not be achieved in time.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know the number of refugees who have been sent out by now? Is it also a fact that even those who had expressed their desire to go there voluntarily had not been taken because the arrangements, as all the papers have reported, are far too inadequate and that the Government is having a little re-thinking over this matter?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: So far, about three hundred families have been taken there. I had been on the spot last week and I have seen that the people there are very happy and are in the process of settlement.

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Happiness is a relative term.

SHRI T. BODRA: In view of the fact that more than 40,000 Adivasis have already been displaced because of irrigation projects and steel plants in Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai and other places, will it be possible to rehabilitate all these 40,000 Adivasis

28 RSD—3.

in the Dandakaranya project or will it be confined to the rehabilitation of only East Pakistan refugees?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: Sir, Dandakaranya development is an integrated development plan of the area. It is mainly for the D.Ps. from West Bengal camps and also for the local people, especially the tribals. Already the tribals are there and they are land-hungry.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is it a fact that the land which was expected to be available from Madhya Pradesh was not made available and, if so, why?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: The land expected to be available was not made available in time for various reasons.

DR. A. N. BOSE: My question was, why? Why was it not made available?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: The primary reason is that the area was not properly surveyed and there were no proper land records. We have to survey the area and proper land records have to be made before the land is finally taken over by the authorities.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Are we to understand that the whole scheme was taken up without a preliminary survey and other things which are necessary before taking up an undertaking of this sort?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: A lot of paper work had to be done. Such a vast scheme would require a lot of thinking at the initial stages.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact, when the scheme was announced at the end of last year and when the call was made for the refugees to go there, many of the refugees expressed their unwillingness to go on the ground that they will have difficulty and that they would not get proper rehabilitation and whether it is also a fact that the Government came out with threats against the refugees—even the Prime

Minister joined in these threats—saying that they were using coercive methods and that the Government would decide to stop their doles if they did not toe the Government line?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: Firstly, the refugees were never unwilling to go there and I can assure the House that no coercive measures have been taken and it was not proposed to take them.

THE DALAI LAMA'S PRESS CONFERENCE

*21. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press conference held by the Dalai Lama on June 20, 1959;

(b) whether Government were informed, prior to the conference of the nature of the statements the Dalai Lama was going to make at the press conference; and

(c) whether Government have expressed their reaction to the propriety or otherwise of making such statements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) In a statement made on behalf of the Government of India, it was stated that the Government would not recognise any Tibetan Government on Indian soil.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: I want to know whether statements of the type that were made by the Dalai Lama would be repeated. I ask this question in view of the fact that the Prime Minister earlier made a statement and expressed the hope that he would not like the Dalai Lama to say or do anything in India which would embarrass the Government. Now, these statements are of that nature and if the Dalai Lama is not frankly told

that such statements should not be made, I am sure such statements would be repeated causing embarrassment to the Government.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What was the question?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, I did not understand the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is whether the Dalai Lama has been told that he should not repeat such statements since they cause embarrassment to the Government.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is a difficult matter, Sir, to draw a hard and fast line. On the one hand, what the hon. Member has said is correct; on the other hand, it did not seem proper to us to put any undue restrictions on the Dalai Lama. He is a man of note and position, ability and intelligence, and he is anxious not to embarrass us. At the same time, no doubt he suffers from inner compulsions to say what he feels. And it becomes a little difficult for any hard and fast line to be drawn.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Sir, there are ways and ways of doing things. I think if the matter is considered important there are ways and ways which the Government can adopt to ensure that such things do not happen in future.

DR. A. N. BOSE: May I ask how the statement of the Dalai Lama has caused any embarrassment to our Government? All that we know is, he said that wherever the Dalai Lama is, the people of Tibet regard him as their Government. He did not even claim it to be a Government on his own; far less, did he want the Indian Government to recognise it as Tibetan Government. So my question is, why should the Indian Government take it as an embarrassment to them?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Because it might be misunderstood. The hon. Member is right; he did not make a claim that he was function-