

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, 22nd September, 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CUT IN THE SIZE OF THE RAILWAY PLAN

*650. SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there has been any further cut in the size of the Railway Plan since the Railway Budget was presented; if so,—

- (a) What is the size of the cut; and
- (b) what are its implications on the overall Second Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). There has been no cut in the financial outlay for the Railway Plan. In order to accommodate the rise in cost of schemes, certain works have been rephased.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: There have been many changes made in the overall Second Five Year Plan and as a result have any adjustments been made in the Railway Plan? May I know whether the core of the Railway Plan (as in the overall Plan) has been determined so that you can give priorities to the core projects?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, ">, as I have said in my reply, we have had to carry out rephasing of certain schemes. There were some originally which had to be completed earlier and we have had to put them back a little on account of the rephasing.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: The original plan had a traffic target of about 161 million tons. Then the Railway Board made, a change and raised it to about 182 million tons and I understand that later the Railway Ministry went back to have a target of about 168 million tons. In view of this has the hon.

68 RSD—1.

¹ Minister made any reduction in the I railway allocations as well?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, according to the present plan the railways are expected to carry 162 million tons at the end of the Second Five Year Plan, but it is anticipated that the traffic offering would be to the extent of 168 million tons. The Planning Commission has asked the Railway Board to keep itself in readiness to carry this anticipated increase in traffic. We feel confident of carrying this traffic.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Is it not a fact that as a result of this rephasing, Government are going to drop the electrification of the Madras—Tamba-ram—Villupuram line?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, as I said, some projects will have to be rephased; some will have to be postponed.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: I gathered from the hon. Minister's reply that there was no cut in the size. Is there any increase in the size of the plan?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, there has been certain increase over the original plan in respect .of electrification projects. Originally 826 miles of D.C. electrification had been sanctioned; later on 1,442 miles of A.C. electrification were sanctioned, but, as I said, it was all included in the overall Rs. 1,125 crores.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Recently there was a report in the papers that we have been able to get some foreign loans in connection with railway projects. Is it true? If so, may I know, Sir, whether this will make any difference in strengthening our railway programme?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is true that we have been able to get some loan from the World Bank. The first loan that we got was to the extent of Rs. 42 crores, but very recently we sent some of our Railway Board Members and they have succeeded in

securing a loan of Rs. 40 crores more. All that will come in the Rs. 425 crores foreign exchange that was provided for in the Second Plan. We have had to cut that down and now it stands at Rs. 391 crores in the shape of foreign exchange.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: The hon. Minister just now mentioned about rephasing some of the projects. As a result, are any of the projects included in the Second Plan being carried over to the third Plan?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: What are they?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Regarding electrification, Sir, the Durgapur—Gaya section was proposed to be completed by September, 1959; now it will be completed by March, 1960. There are similarly a number of other lines.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Adverting to the question put by Mr. Samuel about electrification of the line between Madras and Villupuram, and the answer given that some projects will be rephased and some postponed, may I know definitely whether it has been rephased or postponed?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the exact position regarding that section is that it will be commenced in the Second Plan period and completed in the Third Plan period.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: In view of the fact that they are getting loans from outside, is there any proposal to take up lines already surveyed for construction?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Perhaps there is some misunderstanding that when we get loans they add to the allotted amount. That is not so. We required some foreign exchange for the Plan. There was shortage of foreign exchange, and the loans that we are getting are to surmount our difficulty over the shortage of foreign

exchange. It does not add to the overall resources of the Plan.

BHAKRA DAM

"651. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the amount so far spent on the Bhakra Dam Project and the amount to be spent to complete the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): The total expenditure incurred on the Bhakra Nangal Project up to the end of July, 1958 was Rs. 1,41,38,22,196 out of a total estimated cost of Rs. 170 crores, leaving a balance of Rs. 28,61,77,804 yet to be incurred.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, when this dam will be completed, and is its progress being made according to the time fixed?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir; the dam will be completed by 1960, and the progress is according to schedule.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact—it was reported in the papers—that some damage was caused to the dam during the last rainy season? If so, what is the extent of the damage and what are the reasons?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, a statement had been laid on the Table of the House stating what damage was caused to the partition wall of the spillways. No damage was caused to the dam itself. The total cost for repairing this partition wall will be about Rs. 2 lakhs.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Will the estimated cost prove enough, or will it be exceeded?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: So far as the estimated cost of the project is concerned, it is Rs. 170 crores. The estimated cost of the repairs to this is about Rs. 2 lakhs, and I think it will be possible to manage it within the Rs. 170 crores, to get this Rs. 2 lakhs out of it.