

this section from West Bengal Government and the Bihar Government?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: I cannot give the exact figure but in the participation there are various sectors—there is electricity, there is irrigation, there is the flood and the proportion varies. But Bengal will have to pay almost entirely for the irrigation and one-third for the power project and a certain amount for flood. Bihar of course does not pay much for the irrigation but will have to pay one-third for the power project and they don't pay for the flood. The Central Government will pay upto Rs. 7 crores for the flood control and they also pay, as participants one-third for the electricity schemes.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether similar provision is also there in the Hirakud Project or any other project and if the Government is going to do away with this clause, does Government not feel that there would be difficulty in getting any contribution from any State Government to projects?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The hon. Member has answered the question for the Government. That is exactly the difficulty of the Government. Therefore we don't want to do away with that clause.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: What steps are being taken to realise the amounts due from the States?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The realisation stage will come later, when the project is finished and income from it starts coming. We are rather too early to realise anything except for the power that we are distributing and the money goes to the D.V.C. which is an autonomous corporation and it gets the money.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Is it not a fact that the amount due is more than Rs. 200 crores?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: As at present planned, the D.V.C. will cost some-

where about Rs. 130 crores. Of course to what extent and so on, does not matter. Just now I think we have not spent more than Rs. 95 crores, the rest of it will be spent in the next year or two so that it does not come to as much as Rs. 200 crores.

LOSS AND DAMAGE OF COPPER WIRE DUE TO THEFT ETC.

*205. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any improvement has been effected during the year 1957 in the position regarding the loss and damage of copper wires on account of theft or otherwise; and

(b) how the cases of theft and the quantities and the value of the wires involved in each quarter of the year 1957 compare with those during the corresponding periods of the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) Yes, a slight improvement.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix XX, Annexure, No. 20.]

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: From the statement I find that though the quantity of copper wires stolen has decreased, the value has gone up by about 28,000. May I know the reason for that?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I don't think so.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: The value last year was Rs. 11,40,168 whereat. . . .

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: This year it is Rs. 10 lakhs and so it has gone down.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that the thefts are markedly present near about Calcutta?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: My information is that in such States as Bengal

and U.P. the thefts are a nme on tne increase but in other States they are slightly on the decrease.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether Government is contemplating to replace these copper wires by less costly wires or by underground cables?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have taken several steps and the two steps which have been suggested by the hon. Member are also being attended to by us.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are the effective steps that have been so far taken to prevent further thefts?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That will be a long list but I can briefly enumerate them. Introduction of electronic devices for quick and accurate location of thefts, use of barbed wire on telegraph posts, use of copper weld wires, change-over from ever-head lines to under-ground cables, replacement of copper wire with Aluminium wire and other preventive measures.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know why the thefts in U.P. and Bengal have increased in spite of the vigilance of the Postal Department?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As I have once before submitted, essentially this is a question not of communication but of law and order because thefts are to be controlled and the fact is that thefts are on the increase in Bengal and U.P.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Are those the same areas where they were previously going on or have new areas developed for these thefts?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have not traced out this area, I regret, on the map.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Would he not like to know something about it and take some concrete steps

whether the thefts have increased in the same areas where they were going on or have new areas, developed where thefts are taking place? Would he not look into it?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Generally the thefts are continuing in the old areas. There are some progressive States in this regard especially Bengal and Bihar and part of U.P. also because I would not. . . (Interruptions) Effective steps have to be taken by the Police. Recently there was a Conference of Inspectors General of Police of States here in Delhi. This matter was discussed with them and it was brought to their notice that these thefts should be arrested. They have given their assurance that they will do their best.

NON-LAPSABLE SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT FUND

♦206. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a firm decision to establish a non-lapsable Fund for the development of the shipping industry in the country; and

(b) if so, how the Fund will be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir. A firm decision in principle has been reached but details are yet to be finalised.

(b) The Fund will be built out of annual contributions from the Consolidated Fund of India, the actual size of the contribution being determined from year to year, having regard to the availability of resources. In addition, all repayments of principal and payments of interest on loans already advanced by Government to the Indian shipping companies would be credited to the Fund.