

*402. [The questioner (Shri Lalchand Hirachand Doshi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2390—91 infra.]

FLOODS IN ANDHRA

*403. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representative of the Government of India has been deputed to study the flood situation in Andhra; and

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report; and what are the contents of his report; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) to (c). A Superintending Engineer of the Central Water & Power Commission was sent to Andhra about the middle of this month to make an on-the-spot study of the present flood situation in the Budameru basin. He has just submitted his report to the Commission who are examining it. Further action, if any, will be taken after considering the comments of the Commission.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: May I know, Sir, the places he has visited in Andhra area?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Chiefly he was asked to visit the Budameru basin.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: According to the flood report that has been circulated two days ago, an area of 50,000 acres has been submerged by the waters of the Budameru. Is it a fact that the Andhra Government has not agreed to implement this reservoir scheme which has been planned for flood control?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir. This Budameru reservoir scheme was proposed by the Andhra Government and sanctioned also. But later on they felt that some alternative scheme would be better. It was at the request and suggestion of some of the hon. Members from Andhra State in this House and the other House

that we specially deputed this officer who has toured round the basin and has discussed with the officers. And within a week I shall be meeting all the Members as we generally meet and discuss the whole question there.

*404. [The questioner (Shri S. N. Mazumdar) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2391 infra.]

REGISTRATION OF HANDLOOMS IN STATES

*405. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered registration of handlooms in the States; and

(b) if so, what is the procedure adopted in this matter?

THE MINISTER FOR CONSUMER INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Textile Commissioner who is the registering authority has delegated his powers to the officers of the State Governments who will now receive applications from owners of handlooms and issue registration certificates to them.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, whether several co-operative handloom societies and handloom weavers have expressed their resentment against this registration? And may I know the fears of these handloom weavers?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Some co-operative societies have expressed their disagreement, but the information is that the registration is going on smoothly in almost all the States except a few.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What is the cause of the resentment and why are they afraid of registration?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I do not know.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know the reasons why Government has ordered registration?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The reasons are simple. We want to have accurate statistical data of working and non-working looms, so that Government's programmes of help and subsidies are properly planned.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Is the Government going to punish those who are not going to register their handlooms?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Obviously they will not be eligible for the necessary help.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: What necessary help? Does it mean that yarn will not be given to these weavers who will not register themselves?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yarn is a free commodity and it is available to anybody, but subsidies, grants, loans and all that will not be available.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it a fact that these grants, loans, subsidies and all these things are being given today only to those looms which are already registered and in the co-operative societies; and is it not also further the fact that the weavers have no objection to registering their looms, but what they object to is the penal clause imposed there that if they fail to get themselves registered they are likely to be fined and so on?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The object of registration is to know exactly where we stand, because we have to plan production of cloth, with the possibility of shortages, and we must know the exact number of looms that are working. So far resistance to this registration has been coming largely from outside the co-operative sector. The penalty will be really an extreme penalty, namely, forfeiture of the loom; but it is not the intention to impose the penalty on these people if they are not registering because of certain lack of facilities. May be that after the preliminary registration is done, the officers concerned will go round and register the looms themselves. And wherever these looms are under co-operative societies registration becomes an easy matter.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Is it the policy of the Government not to allow more looms hereafter to be started?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: My hon. friend is drawing conclusions for which there is no warrant. May be that in future we must know the number of looms that come into production every year. We cannot allow ribbon development because the problems relating to supply of yarn and cloth

will gather momentum. But it does not necessarily mean that merely because we want registration we would like to make it a closed shop for those who are now in the business.

SHRI M. GOVINDAN NAIR: Since most of the weavers are illiterate, is it not creating trouble to the weavers to follow the procedure of maintaining proper accounts, etc.?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: The trouble is that we people who are literate think we are far too literate and everybody else is illiterate. The question of registration does not really tie-up with the question of literacy. All that a man has to say is he has got a loom and the registrar, deputy registrar or assistant registrar of co-operative societies will do the rest. There is no difficulty at all in the matter.

SETTING UP OF A TEXTILE MILL IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

***406. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:** Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Textile Mill in Travancore-Cochin in the Public sector; and

(b) if so, what is going to be its size and capital?

THE MINISTER FOR CONSUMER INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) and (b). A scheme for the establishment of a spinning mill has been included in the proposals sent by the Travancore-Cochin Government to the Handloom Board. The matter is under consideration.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the mill is going to be set up in the public sector or under a co-operative society?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is still under consideration.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is the plan of the Government? Whether Government propose to set up a textile mill in the public sector—that was the question. What is under consideration?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Everything is under consideration.