

to know what has been the extent of the Punjab Government's contribution towards this expenditure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He thinks they have spent something, but he wants notice.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: But he has the information, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he said they must have spent, but he is not definite.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, I think they have, but I will require notice to check it up.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: What is the total cost incurred over the Bhakra-Nangal scheme so far?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The total expenditure up to 31st March 1954 is Rs. 81 crores.

NATIONAL BUILDINGS ORGANISATION

*178. SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI): Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state the progress so far made by the National Buildings Organisation in its work?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): The National Buildings Organisation started functioning only with effect from 5th July 1954 with a small nucleus staff. The Director has submitted detailed proposals about the staffing and organisation of the work. These are now under examination. The Director is now engaged on the collection of literature to enable the Organisation to function as a documentation and technical information centre.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the amount that is likely to be invested in this organisation? How much will it cost the Government of India?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We have not yet worked out all the details and so it is not possible to say at this

stage what is going to be the exact amount that is likely to be spent.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, in how many sections they contemplate opening the training classes?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am afraid this has nothing to do with the main question. Opening of classes is not the function of the National Buildings Organisation. They will make concrete proposals on problems remitted to them and they will be examined. The starting of classes for training will be the function of the administrative units, the Central Ministry or the State Governments.

EXPORT QUOTA FOR DRIED CHILLIES

*187. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY (ON BEHALF OF SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA): Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the traders of Guntur in Andhra that the quota for exporting dried chillies should be fixed according to the average production of that article in the particular area; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on that representation?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some such suggestion is contained in the communications that have been received by Government.

(b) Applications have been invited from dealers in chillies in the producing areas for allotment of quotas for shipment during the current half-year.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Is it a fact, Sir, that a Deputy Export Controller has been appointed to decide the export quotas?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: These Export Control Officers have been there all along. As I have said, it has;

been proposed, in view of the representations, that a certain quota should be released to people from the producing area.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the hon. Minister aware that recently the prices of chillies have gone up enormously as a result of which the consumer is suffering? If so, is it not advisable to see that the export of chillies is stopped for the moment?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I am happy to tell my hon. friend that the consumers' interests have been the dominating consideration in these matters. So far as export is concerned, we get the advice of the Food and Agriculture Ministry who go into the matter. Whenever there is surplus, they advise us accordingly and then we allow a (quota to go out of the country.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Does the hon. Minister mean that there is more production of chillies than what is required for the consumers in this country? If so, why is it that the prices have increased nearly four or ifive times?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, this 'is a combined question. It is not a •question of surplus at all times. Sometimes there is a surplus and sometimes there is not. The Food and Agriculture Ministry, as I said just now, deal •with the question whether there is a surplus or not. Normally whether there is a surplus or not is partially indicated by the prices that are current. As my hon. friend win easily understand, in Ramnad, for a bag of 82 lbs. of chillies, the price was Us. 60 on 7th March 1953. It rose up to Rs. 112 on 31st October 1953 and it has again come down to Rs. 54-8-0 on 28th August 1954. This is a fairly ^good indication of how things are.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the price of chillies was only about Rs. 25 per bag about two years back?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Relative prices? About that, I should like to have notice.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Could the hon. Minister give us a few instances where the interests of the consumers have been the predominant factor?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In your estimate of the proper price.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There are different processes for different commodities. But I have no information of any cost-accounting so far as chilly growing is concerned.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Can I take it that the interests of the grower are being protected in the working out of the policy?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. The interests of the growers are under protection, the interests of the consumers are under protection and our own interests are also being protected.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Does the hon. Minister accept the statement made by Shri Rajagopal Naidu that the prices of chillies have been considerably going up and steadily too? Does he accept that statement or does he deny it?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I gave figures for the last few months. Some one year back, the prices were rising up. Then they came down because we stopped exports and now they are where they were last year, in some areas. My hon. friend asked about two years back and for that I said I would require notice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEPUTATION OF ENGINEERS TO CHINA

•172. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the