

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Can I take it then that this has been postponed to the second stage of the Hirakud Project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Maybe, it may be considered later on.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: But the hon. Minister said it has been postponed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask, since it has been postponed, whether it will be taken up in the second stage, and the Minister says, "may be taken up".

SHRI PRASADARAO: May I know what is the percentage of return that the Government expect in order to take up a project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It all depends upon the different conditions at different places.

ESTIMATES OF UNIT I OF HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

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

(a) what was the original estimated cost of the main Dam and appurtenant works (Unit I) of the Hirakud Dam Project as worked out in 1947;

(b) what was the increase in each of the years 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 (up to April) over the original estimates;

(c) what were the circumstances which necessitated the increase and what was the actual increase under each different head; and

(d) whether the estimates of works in connection with Unit No. I of the Project have since been finalised; and if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Rs. 16-16 crores.

(b) The estimated cost in different years is:

1. 1951 (January) Estimate—
Rs. 34" 40 crores.

2. 1952 (November) Estimate—
Rs. 35-99 crores.

3. Final 1953 Revised Estimate—
Rs. 45' 50 crores.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 289.]

(d) Yes, Sir; the estimate was finalised in November 1953.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether there has been any change in the specification in Unit I, I mean change in the specification for the construction?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There have been changes so far as estimates of 1947-48 were concerned.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: But what I mean to ask is, whether the stone-masonry has been substituted for concrete masonry for the concrete work? I intend to ask whether there has been any such change in the specification for the construction and whether the increase in the estimate is justified or not.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There has been change in the method of construction, that is to say, a portion which was to be done in concrete is now being done in masonry.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I invite the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister to the statement which he has circulated? There we find in the 'remarks' column one of the reasons for the increase is the increase in the wages of labour. But is it not a fact that today, the wages of labour are much less than what it used to be in 1947?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The wages of the mazdoors, as they are called, have been reduced but the wages of the other labourers have been increased. The wages of skilled labourers and

masons have increased. The number is not so much but when we compare it from 1947 to 1953, the wages have increased.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The question is, is it not a fact also that the percentage of these mazdoor labourers is much more overwhelming than the regular labourers?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not think it is much more overwhelming than the regular labourers.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, the hon. Minister can take the information from me that the mazdoors are much more than the regular labourers and so I am asking him as to how this increase in the wages of labour can be adduced as a reason for the increase in the estimate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is one of the reasons.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir, it seems to be the contrary.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: For the first part, I take the information and as to the second part, I want to say that when compared with 1947, the wages have actually risen.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Every year the estimate has gone on rising like malaria temperature.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: What was the wage paid for a mazdoor in 1947 and what is it that is being paid now?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It was something like twelve to fourteen annas in 1947 and now it is Rs. 1/8.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What are the main causes that contribute to the rising expenditure?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is given in the statement. The statement says so many things, increased scope of investigation, cost of compensation.

wages, cost of machines and the rest of it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: It has been stated, Sir, that increased compensation is also one of the causes but is it not a fact that the people who have not yet been re-settled so far have as their major grievance that no compensation has been paid to them?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: This is after all, an estimate. We have already paid some compensation to some persons. In 1947 compensation was calculated at Rs. 200 but now in actual practice it has been found to be Rs. 450 and therefore there has been increase over estimate in actual payment.

PRICE OF SHAVING BLADES

*633. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few months the prices of certain articles such as shaving blades have risen by 50 to 100 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such rise in price and what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) It is reported that the prices of imported shaving blades have risen. It is not clear what other articles the hon. Member has in view.

(b) This may be due to the limited supply of imported blades. The matter is receiving attention.

I should like to add also, Sir, that this supposed shortage may well be due to the activities of hoarding which occur sometimes somewhere when the Import Advisory Council is likely to have a session.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the extent of rise in prices? Does the hon. Minister concede that it is from 50 per cent, to 100 per cent.