

this committee in any way delays work.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: No Member of Parliament is on this committee.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

*35. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 10,000 unserviceable vehicles were declared surplus to the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals for disposal during the last two years; if so, what is the number of such vehicles actually disposed of during that period; and

(b) what expenditure was incurred in looking after unserviceable vehicles during the last two years?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) During the last two years, 12,471 unserviceable vehicles were declared to the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals for disposal and, out of these, 5,064 vehicles were disposed of during that period.

(b) Government did not incur any expenditure on looking after the unserviceable vehicles. Security staff already employed in each depot look after such vehicles.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: What about the storage space? These unserviceable vehicles must have been stored somewhere and they must have taken up a great deal of storage space and Government must have had to incur expenditure on that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is there, but most of these are stored in the open space. There is utilisation of open space; to that extent there will be that element, but I don't think that is of any considerable value.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the hon. Minister give me a definite assurance

that no expenditure has been incurred by the Government on these unserviceable vehicles which have not been disposed of?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I thought that a thing does not become definite by saying that it is definite. Whatever I have stated is correct.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: I am sorry, but that does not answer my question. Does the hon. Minister say that no expenditure has been incurred? Is he definite about that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have said that the security staff already employed in each depot will look after such vehicles. Therefore whatever expenditure is being incurred on the pay and upkeep of these security arrangements—that is the amount that is being spent.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Are those vehicles un-repairable also?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, I am afraid, otherwise they would not be declared as such.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know where they are lying?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: They are lying all over the country at a number of places.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: How many are lying at Dehu Road near Poona?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I cannot make a guess but if he wants the exact information, he should table a separate question.

MINOR PROJECTS IN ANDHRA STATE

*32. SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA (on behalf of SHRI K. SURYA-NARAYANA): Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the

Government of Andhra with regard to approval of plans for 28 minor irrigation projects to be carried out in that State;

(b) if so, the names of these projects and the districts in which they are to be carried out; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a), (b) and (c). A sum of Rs. 5 crores was allotted by the Planning Commission for a programme of permanent improvements in scarcity areas in Andhra State. The Andhra Government proposed 28 irrigation schemes for consideration by the Planning Commission. Of these, in consultation with the representatives of the Andhra Government, 17 schemes have been selected and tentatively approved for execution during 1954-55 and 1955-56. A statement giving particulars of the schemes is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 15.]

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Out of these 28 schemes only 17 were accepted by the Planning Commission and out of those proposed for Visakhapatnam District, only one has been accepted and that one is a project which has an estimated cost of only Rs. 8 lakhs. There are other schemes costing more and which are of greater importance, with estimated cost of Rs. 60 lakhs, Rs. 36 lakhs and so on. But only the scheme estimated to cost Rs. 8 lakhs has been accepted by the Government. May I know the reasons why the others have been rejected?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Out of the 28 schemes proposed by the Government of Andhra, as I said, 17 schemes have been accepted because the cost of some of the other schemes seemed out of all proportion to the benefits to be had from them. For example, there is a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 2 lakhs while the area to be irrigated by it is only 200 acres. There is another scheme estimated to

cost Rs. 3 lakhs and the area to be irrigated by it is only 400 acres. On these considerations they were not accepted.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I know, Sir, what the cost per acre of irrigated land should be so that the Government may think it worth while sanctioning the project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I said they were accepted.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: That is true. So I ask what is the average cost per acre that the Government has fixed, for sanctioning a project.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Perhaps the hon. Member has not understood me. One of the schemes proposed had an estimated cost of Rs. 2 lakhs and the area to be irrigated was only 200 acres. The other.....

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: I have understood the answer, but.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he wants to know is, what in the view of the Government is the minimum acreage.....

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: No, Sir, the minimum cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What should be the cost per acre which would justify the Government undertaking a scheme.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Somewhere about Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 per acre, at least.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does this apply to the minor irrigation schemes also? Or does it apply only to the major irrigation schemes?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not exactly that way, for if a scheme means not only irrigation but also flood control, then that also has to be given consideration.

PROF. G. RANGA: Are we to understand that all these five other schemes

which were recommended by the Andhra Government to be taken up in Visakhapatnam District come under the disability that the hon. Minister just now mentioned? Is it not a fact that everyone of these schemes, for instance, the Thandava Reservoir Scheme costing Rs. 60 lakhs, the Kadakonda Scheme, i.e. the Sarada Reservoir Scheme at Raiwada, costing Rs. 36 lakhs, were investigated several times earlier, but were not taken up by the British Government? When the Andhra Government recommended these, the Government of India could accept only one scheme from among them; for the whole district costing only Rs. 8 lakhs and had to give up all the others.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Is the hon. Member referring to these 28 schemes or to some other schemes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He refers to the schemes proposed in the Visakhapatnam District and ask why you have selected only one from them and rejected the other five schemes.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, I would require notice to give the details.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Will the Government consider taking up all these schemes along with several others when more notes are printed in the Nasik printing press?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE. Sir, we have not finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: But Sir, all these schemes relate to scarcity areas and if I understood the.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It will be right to say that even if the cost is a little higher, the schemes should be

sanctioned because they are for a special purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Visakhapatnam is not a scarcity area.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is an under-developed area where there have been so many famines recently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Visakhapatnam?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Yes, Sir, between 1943 and 1953.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is where it concerns a scarcity area, do you insist on this cost per acre?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not necessarily.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Then why reject the other schemes? That is the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No money, I suppose.

PROF. G. RANGA: The Andhra Government think that these districts of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam are under-developed districts and so priority should be given to them.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: These were discussed by the Andhra Government and the Planning Commission and only 17 schemes were accepted. If the hon. Member wants further details, I would require notice.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Did the Andhra Government agree to the proposal of the Government of India not to include the other eleven schemes?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The question was of giving priority and these 17 were chosen, costing Rs. 5 crores, having regard to the resources available.