

letter explaining to them the present conditions. So they have appreciated all that and they have said that they would give fuller consideration to it.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: When would it be likely for them to give a final reply?

(No reply.)

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the Prime Minister explain the reasons which had impelled him to write this letter to the Princes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The general situation in the country.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is wrong with the general situation, Sir? Is there any special reason which has cropped up now and which did not exist at the time when these contracts were entered into?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, the situation is very different now. By now I mean not today but for the last two or three years. The situation is very different from the one which existed at the time these contracts were entered into. Just before partition and independence—a month or six weeks before that—the situation was very different and a very large number of difficult problems had to be faced; and one did not quite know how things would shape, whether peacefully or otherwise. And it was considered desirable to solve this problem as rapidly and as peacefully as possible, and in that we achieved remarkable success. I think at that time there were very, very few persons who expected such a rapid and peaceful solution of this problem.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know the terms of the contract entered into with the ex-Rulers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a long question and another question. Is it not placed in the Library?

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Information on this subject has not been supplied.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I understood from the Prime Minister's reply that the contracts that were entered into were quite satisfactory and favourable and if that were so, what is the special reason for writing this letter now?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I did not say that they were satisfactory or not. I said that they were entered into at a time when all kinds of factors had to be taken into consideration. The Government that was then functioning was facing the change-over here and it had to take into consideration all kinds of factors and at that time the then Government came to that decision and these were entered into. Hundreds of contracts were entered into within probably two or three weeks.

DELTA IRRIGATION SURVEY AT HIRAKUD

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

(a) the total amount spent during the year 1952-53 by the Hirakud Dam Project Administration for surveys in connection with the irrigation of the delta area; and

(b) the amount estimated to be spent on this account during the year 1953-54?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Rs. 6,36,096.

(b) Rs. 5,43,000.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know for how long has this survey work been going on?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: For the last one year. It commenced on the 13th August 1952 and it is now complete.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know where the headquarters of this Survey Division is located—whether at Sambalpur or at New Delhi?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The two divisions are at Bhubaneswar.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: He asks whether it is in Sambalpur or in New Delhi.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I wanted about the headquarters of this Delta Irrigation Survey—whether it is located at Sambalpur or at New Delhi.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The two executive engineers in charge of each division are at Bhubaneswar but the Superintending Engineer's headquarters was at Delhi.

PROF. G. RANGA: Why?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if it is a fact that the officer concerned spends about 12 days or two weeks every month near Hirakud? If so, can the Government give an idea of the amount that has been spent out of the total expenditure on this project on his travelling allowances?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: So far as this Superintending Engineer's office is concerned, that is now closed. There is no question of his spending in the future. So far as the period in question is concerned, I will find out how he stayed at a particular place and what was his travelling allowance.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know what impelled the Government to allow—should I call it—this fantastic proposal to locate the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer at New Delhi? Am I to understand that no buildings were available in Orissa for that purpose?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The main reason was that this Superintending Engineer had much of his business to do in consultation with the C.D.O. here. That was one reason. The other reason was that there was also difficulty of obtaining buildings at Bhubaneswar.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: While contesting the latter statement, may I ask him.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He contests the latter statement that buildings were not available at Bhubaneswar.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: As regards the former statement, may I ask him how the Superintending Engineer who is in exclusive charge of this can be connected with designs? What engineering designs are involved in digging canals?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not for digging canals but for survey some design work has to be done.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The question is now like this. He says that for the survey

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ask the question straight.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What amount of design work is involved in the survey of an irrigation system?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I cannot say actually what amount but some amount of work is involved.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if the Government have any idea about the canal system of.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kakkilaya.

SHRI B. RATH: May I put a supplementary question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The office has been removed from Delhi.

SHRI B. RATH: Because the work is closed from October but one thing I would like to know is this. Some months back I had drawn the attention of the Ministry to this Superintending Engineer's office being located at Delhi and the T.A. that he was drawing month after month for his travelling to Orissa for seeing the work at Bhubaneswar and other places and having his headquarters at Puri. I want to know how much T.A. he has drawn with respect to that because the attention of Government had already been drawn to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said that he will give those figures after looking into the papers—not now.