

was thought safe to approve this extension.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Would this extension involve any extra expenditure and if so, what would it be?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It would not involve any extra expenditure. The work remains the same and only the margin is extended for safety. The other thing was, even if it was finished in March 1956, the water could not be released before June 1956. So we agreed to give from March to June extra and that will ensure safety.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know as to whether such extensions have been given before?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not for this earth work.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Now we are told that no extra expenditure will be involved during the period of extension of 3 months. Is it not a fact that the establishment has to be maintained and the over-head charges are to be paid for this period of 3 months and if so, what is that amount?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The establishment will even otherwise have to be maintained, if not specially for that work, for other work because the finishing touches and other things will continue even for a year later on. So far as the quantity of earth work is concerned, that has to be done either way, whether it is completed by March or June but the machinery will have to be continued even some time later—even for a year for giving finishing touches, etc.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that the ex-Chief Engineer of Hirakud Project is still of the opinion that the work can be completed within the stipulated period?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, he thinks that it may be possible to do it. Even this Chief Engineer also feels that it may be possible but looking to the fact that it does not mean any difference so far as results are concerned

and as the new Chief Engineer is to be in charge of the work, we thought it proper to accept the suggestion.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: When the ex-Chief Engineer is of the opinion that the work can be completed within the target period, I wish to know why he should not be left in charge of the project to complete it because this 3 months' period will certainly involve some expenditure.

(No reply.)

INDIAN NATIONALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

*270. DR. KALIDAS NAG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the attitude of Government towards Indian nationals in South Africa; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to prevent Indian nationals from being forcibly repatriated by the Government of that country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) There are practically no Indian nationals in South Africa. Probably the hon. Member refers to people of Indian descent in South Africa. They are South African nationals and not Indian nationals. The attitude of the Government of India in regard to them has been frequently discussed in Parliament, in the United Nations and elsewhere. It has a long history which presumably is known to the hon. Member.

(b) The Government of South Africa have stated that they would like persons of Indian origin to return to India. There has been no attempt made to send them to India forcibly. The Government of India is entirely opposed to this, as these persons are South African nationals. What steps the Government might take would depend on developments.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: May I ask the Deputy Minister to clarify a little bit? Since when have we been defining the brown-skinned Indians who are in

Africa as having ceased to be Indians and what is their number? Since when has that number been classified for the Minister to say that there are no Indians in South Africa? There are Indians.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: They ceased to be Indian citizens when they acquired South African nationality.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: By whom have they been given their peculiar status? Has it been voluntarily accepted by all Indians?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The nationality was conferred upon them by the State concerned.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: What is the Indian State doing to help the oppressed elements of these Indian nationals? This question—in everchanging form—is arising in ever so many places—in Burma, in Malaya, in Ceylon, etc. Why have we washed our hands of it? Since when have we been doing this?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: They are not Indian nationals. They are South African nationals of Indian descent.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What percentage of the people of Indian descent in South Africa are South African born?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I should like notice of that.

PROF. G. RANGA: Did we not give an offer to our Indian nationals settled in the various Commonwealth countries and other countries also to make their choice whether they would like to accept the citizenship of the countries where they happen to be or whether they would like to continue to be Indians?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Obviously they had chosen themselves to take up South African nationality, otherwise they would not have lost their Indian nationality.

PROF. G. RANGA: Does that cover all Indians whether they have gone now or been born there, i.e., South Africans of Indian descent; and does it apply to all of them?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Obviously it is too general a question. As far as our information goes, there are not many, if any at all, Indian nationals in South Africa.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Is it not the policy of the Government of India to see that citizens of Indian descent, wherever they may be, should acquire the nationality of the State in which they are living at present and they should not look upon us as fellow-citizens?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The Prime Minister had, on the floor of this House, I think, expressed this opinion.

*271. [*The questioner (Shri K. C. George) was absent. For answer vide column 2143 infra.*]

REPORT OF THE INDIAN FERTILIZER MISSION

*272. SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the Report of the Indian Fertilizer Mission which was sent abroad to study the different processes of production of Urea and Ammonium Nitrate?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Mission and invited tenders from several firms on the lines indicated by the Mission in their report.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN ANDHRA

*273. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Government have submitted to the Government of India any irrigation schemes for inclusion in the Five Year Plan;