

have taken any decision on the recommendation contained in the P. S. Rau Committee's Report on the Damodar Valley Corporation about the form of organisation for multi-purpose irrigation projects, and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) No, Sir. The report is still under consideration. The second part does not arise.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In view of the statement that 'the report is still under consideration', may we take it that it will take two to three years' time to finalise it?

(No reply.)

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May we know the policy of the Government in the matter of appointing Committees? Is it to seriously consider their reports or is it merely to evade the issues at stake?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is to seriously consider the reports.

PROF. G. RANGA: Our difficulty is this, Sir. You have been seeing the kind of answers we get. Will the Government assure us that Government will see to it that the reports of these Committees when they go to the respective departments, are not relegated to some subordinate officers but are given some consideration by their higher-ups?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I may just make it clear that the report of the Committee had to be considered by the participating States, that is, Bihar, West Bengal, and the D. V. C. and naturally we had to send them copies of the report in order to take their views. An inter-State Conference was held last month and views were expressed by each of them and now it is for the Government to take a decision. These things naturally take time.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Are we not entitled to know as to how long the report will be under the consideration

of the Government? We should have some idea of the time that is taken.

(No reply.)

PROF. G. RANGA: I want at least an assurance, in regard to the reports made by these committees, that Government will see to it that their Joint Secretaries, or their Secretaries or their Minister will give consideration to these reports and not allow these things to be relegated to the local people and thereby waste time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is understood.

#### TRIBAL ATTACK ON NEF AGENCY OFFICIALS

\*288. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a party of officials of the North-East Frontier Agency and the men of the Assam Rifles were attacked and killed by the tribals of Abor Hills; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). The Prime Minister made a statement in the House of the People on 21st November 1953 in this connection. However, to recapitulate briefly I may say that on the 22nd October, a composite column of political representatives, Assam Rifles and a number of village headmen accompanied by porters arrived in Tagin area. The object of the visit was to investigate into certain tribal feuds in this area and to distribute medicines, salt and other necessities among the tribesmen. While the medicines and other articles were being distributed the party was suddenly attacked by a large number of tribesmen armed with Dahs, spears, bows and arrows, who had gathered in the surrounding jungles. According to the reports received so far about 40 persons were killed and about 60 to 70 persons are held in detention.

On receipt of the information at Shillong, immediate steps were taken to reinforce the various outposts in the Subansiri and Abor hills districts and additional Assam Rifles Platoons were flown to various places. Necessary steps are being taken to restore peace in the area and to punish the offenders.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it a fact that this is because of some resistance being offered to the present policy of expansion of administration?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: That is not our information.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Government let me know whether they have launched upon any social reforms in this area?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: No, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the nature of the work on which our people are engaged in this area?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Administration.

PROF. G. RANGA: Social and economic development also.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will Government explain the circumstances which resulted in such a tragedy?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Sir, it is very difficult, at this stage, to say definitely what were the reasons that actuated the people to behave in this manner.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware of the present position?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Our soldiers have reached the spot; it will be some time before we get full and detailed reports.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Has the area been put under proper administration? Has it been extended right up to the International border?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Our administration is being pushed up to the international border.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: What was the strength of the military escort provided for this Mission?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The Mission was in charge of Major R. D. Singh, and consisted of 22 other ranks of the Assam Rifles, one area superintendent, two political representatives, two political interpreters, 17 village Headmen and 100 porters.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Is it a fact that not even one military platoon was provided for the protection of the Mission?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It was thought that under normal circumstances, this was adequate but I regret to say that from the reports received it appears that the officer in-charge of the company did not take enough precaution for protection.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Was it the fault of the military or was the officer asked to go there by somebody with such meagre escort?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: In normal circumstances.....

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: How many men was he asked to take with him?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I am sorry I do not know how many.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Then, how does the hon. Minister accuse the Major of negligence?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I didn't accuse him, Sir; I only said that from the reports it appeared that the Major did not take proper precautions for protection.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: How does the hon. Minister come to the conclusion that the officer concerned did not take adequate precautions? Wasn't he carrying out instructions?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It happened like this. The practice is this. When tribal people from outside want to enter the camp, they are disarmed before entering. In this case, they were not.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: That is not the point. My point is, what was the strength of the military escort provided for this Mission? The hon. Minister is answering a different question. It was certainly not the fault of the Major that sufficient men were not available for the protection of the Mission.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: I have given the exact number of military personnel who accompanied this party. It was considered, in normal circumstances, adequate. It was a lapse which none could not foresee.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: May I know what was the distance to be covered by the Mission that was given less than a platoon for its protection?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It is understood to be a distance of six days' march.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: How did the Government come to the conclusion that 22 officers and other people would be enough for the protection of the Mission?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: For the simple reason, Sir, that there was nothing special; this was considered adequate in the normal course.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Was the Mission sent to the territory in a normal condition?

MR CHAIRMAN: Next question No. 289.

IMPROVED SEEDS AND ARTIFICIAL MANURE FOR  
COMMUNITY PROJECT CENTRES IN RAJAS-  
THAN

\*289. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to

state the total amount of improved seeds and artificial manure which has been distributed in each year so far at each of the Community Project Centres in Rajasthan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): A statement giving the information up to 30th September 1953 is placed on the Table. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 94.]

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that a Special Officer was sent by the Planning Commission to report on these matters, particularly in respect of Rajasthan?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Officer did go and visit these places. Several officers came and gave him all possible information. Whatever advice was asked of him, he gave them.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if the officer had reported on this particular matter?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: He has submitted a report that the distribution work was poor; the matter was taken up with the State Government and they were asked that proper instructions should be given and that distribution of seeds and manure should be given an impetus.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What are the reasons for the poor work in the State of Rajasthan?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There were two or three reasons; but the main reason was that the proper procedure was not known to the officers concerned.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Whose fault was it that the proper procedure was not known to them?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not know whose fault it was; but the procedure was not made known to the officers by the State Government.