

(c) what are the dates of receipt of each scheme by Government and what are the dates when they were sanctioned;

(d) whether it is a fact that many schemes have been held over for want of funds; what are the funds provided for these schemes in this year's budget; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the water supply schemes are financed on 50:50 basis and the villagers have deposited their share and that the schemes cannot be proceeded with due to absence of funds or non-receipt of sanctions from the Government of India?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a), (b) and (c). Four schemes were received from Himachal Pradesh Government during 1952-53; they are 'Nahan', 'Mandi', 'Theog' and 'Jogindernagar' Water Supply Schemes and the dates of receipt are 2nd January, 12th January, 16th February and 20th February 1953 respectively. No scheme has been received during the year 1953-54. These schemes were lacking in technical details and are still under scrutiny in consultation with the Himachal Pradesh Government.

(d) No funds have been provided for the current year and, therefore, the progress of these schemes has been held up for the time being. However, the Government of India will make every effort to provide for necessary expenditure from the existing Revenue grant to the Himachal Pradesh Government.

(e) Yes; three villages have deposited their share of the expenditure.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister has agreed to make a statement here which will be followed by a debate on Tuesday, the 22nd September, from 8.15 A.M. to 11.15 A.M. That will be three hours.

AN HON. MEMBER: On what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: On foreign affairs.

SHRI B. RATH: May we know when this session is going to close?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, we are awaiting the decision from the House of the People about the Estate Duty Bill.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO DR. M. D. D. GILDER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Dr. M. D. D. Gilder:

"As I have not been keeping well of late, I regret I shall not be able to attend the Council sittings during this session. May I therefore ask you to request the House to be good enough to grant me leave for this session?"

Is it the pleasure of the Council that permission be granted to Dr. M. D. D. Gilder to remain absent from all meetings of the Council during its current session?

(No. hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS) 1950-51 AUDIT REPORT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs) 1950-51 and the Audit Report, 1952, thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. IV. O. 1 (48).]