

COUNCIL OF STATES

Wednesday, 26th August 1953

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF TELEPHONE CABLE FACTORY TO HINDUSTAN CABLES LTD.

*49. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state—

(a) the terms under which, and the reasons why, the management and control of the Telephone Cable Factory has been entrusted to the Hindustan Cables Ltd., and

(b) the amount invested by the said Hindustan Cables Ltd. in that factory?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The management and control of the Telephone Cable Factory has been entrusted to Hindustan Cables Ltd. in pursuance of a decision taken by Government in November 1950 that departmental management was unsuitable for Government industrial undertakings and when they are essentially for manufacture and sale, as is the case with the Telephone Cable Factory, the company form of organisation would be the most suitable to enable the undertaking to be run efficiently on commercial lines. The factory has been transferred with all its assets and liabilities to the company. The Company is a wholly Government owned concern, managed by a board of directors appointed by Government.

(b) The authorised capital of the Company is Rs. 3 crores and the estimated cost of the present project in hand is of the order of Rs. 110 lakhs. The amount of investment by the company to meet the expenditure incurred from time to time is raised by allot-

ment of shares to the President of the Republic. The exact investment made up to date is not readily available. At the end of March this year, however, the amount made available by Government to the company was about Rs. 40 lakhs.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Who was managing this Telephone Cable Factory before it was handed over to the Hindustan Cables Limited?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It was being looked after departmentally.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was it not the Government that was managing it?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: 'Departmentally' means the concerned Department of the Government

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Even now the Government alone is managing it under the name of the Hindustan Cables Ltd.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am afraid the hon. Member is not quite correct. The Government finds all the necessary money for putting up this plant and the company allots shares to the President, but it is not being managed by the Government. The whole conception of this arrangement is that autonomy should be given to the company, when it is constituted, to manage the day-to-day affairs of the factory. But the overall policy and certain other vital matters are constantly kept in view by the Government and the Government will, to that extent, have an overall control of the company's affairs.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When was the Telephone Cable Factory started?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It has not been started as yet but the project has been taken in hand; it is in the process of erection. The initial decision was taken somewhere in 1950 and since then the necessary measures are being taken to establish that plant.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When will production start?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: According to the present information, Sir, the initial arrangements for production will start somewhere in October, but it will go into actual production by the end of December.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will it make us self-sufficient in cables?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I cannot say that definitely. In the year 1950-51 the Posts and Telegraphs Department said that they would require a particular quantity of this telephone cable. But today after two years the demand is doubled. I can say that the present demand is to the tune of about 1,000 to 1,200 miles length of cable. This factory is designed to manufacture 469 miles length of cable on a single shift basis. The Government is now considering whether they could switch over to a double shift basis and enable the factory to produce double 469 miles length of cable. So all these things are under consideration. The demands are fluctuating. One cannot say definitely and categorically that the production of this plant will meet the entire demands of the country.

PROF. G. RANGA: What difference does it make between the departmental control and the company control and what are the special advantages for which this changeover has been accepted by Government?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I have got a long statement here which explains the rationale of the decision taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is a long statement, it may be circulated.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: If the House so desires, I shall do so.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I take it that Hindustan Cables Ltd. is the commission agent of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

CONSTITUTION OF A CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR LAND REFORMS

*50. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Committee for Land Reforms has been constituted under the Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the land reforms effected so far by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee has advised the State Governments of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and PEPSU on their land reforms legislation. General questions of land policy are also considered by the Committee.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Do the reforms differ from State to State? Is it so, Sir?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: They differ so far as certain parts are concerned, but the policy would be uniform.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Do the limitations on holdings differ from State to State?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are there State Land Reforms Committees?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The regional committees have not yet been formed, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: If the reforms vary from State to State and if there are different limitations on holdings, then is it that the Central Committee is only a tribunal?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Central Committee generally advises the various States. Now as to how the holding for each particular States should be fixed, that depends upon the nature of the land, crop conditions there and various other factors, which have to be taken into consideration while deciding that.