

SHRI S. MAHANTY: If so, it is really immaterial how much we pay to them because India contributes £700,000 to the Fund. While I am appreciative of the allowance they are getting, may I know if the Government had taken any steps to ascertain the expert knowledge of these experts before they were placed in Hirakud?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir, before they were placed in Hirakud, Government did ascertain whether they would be serviceable and useful for the project.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Have the Government ascertained from the Chief Engineer of Hirakud about these two experts and are they aware that the services of these two experts have been found quite inadequate and unsatisfactory?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not that, Sir,—not that their services have been found inadequate, but they may not be first rate experts.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if no Indian mechanics are available to look after this machinery?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In the beginning when we had this earth-moving machinery, we were short of persons to handle them. These people had handled such machinery. Now, we have trained persons who can handle these machines.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: You have trained Indian personnel?

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

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How long are these experts likely to continue in Hirakud?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not later than 1954.

WATER SUPPLY IN HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

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

62 C.S.D.

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no provision for the supply of water to the labourers engaged on the Hirakud Dam Project; and

(b) the total amount spent in the year 1952-53 on the colonies of Hirakud and Burla in connection with the water supply scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No, Sir.

Rs. A. P.

(b) Hirakud	13,442 9 3
Burla	2,13,323 8 7
TOTAL	2,26,766 1 10

9 A.M.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, I could not follow the answer so far as part (b) is concerned.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI:

Rs. A. P.

(b) Hirakud	13,442 9 3
Burla	2,13,323 8 7

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know, Sir, the nature of these water supply schemes for which huge amounts have been spent in Burla?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Laying of new taps, new pipe-lines, digging of wells, supplying water to the labour quarters and such like things.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In view of the reply to part (a) that no provision for water supply to labourers has been made.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'No' is the answer. Your question is whether it is a fact that there is no provision for water supply and the answer is 'no'. It is not a fact.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it the contention of the hon. Minister that there is provision of water supply? I want to know.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The question that was put was whether it is a fact.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer is that there is provision for water supply.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I had been to Hirakud only in the month of June and I can say that there is no provision for water. In the temperature of 116° labourers had to work without water. I would like it to be contradicted, Sir.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, at about ten places new water taps and water pipe lines were laid in April 1953. If the hon. Member talks of June, I can tell him that new water pipes and lines have been laid in about ten places.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: After June 1953?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: After the Minister for Irrigation and Power visited the area—he found that there were not sufficient amenities for water supply for the labourers—these things were done and about 100 taps had been laid there. This is between March and May.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is water coming from the taps?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, and in those places where it was not possible to get it due to the high level of the ground, arrangements have been made to supply water.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that a riot took place in Gandhinagar Colony in the first week of July over water?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There was no question of rioting taking place; there was some quarrel between the females only.

SHRI B. RATH: Will the hon. Minister concede the statement that the taps that had been opened in the different colonies are totally inadequate for the supply of water to the large number of labourers who stay in these colonies?

(No reply.)

EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR TEA INDUSTRY

*63. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the progress made so far towards the setting up of an Expert Committee to inquire into the cost structure of the tea industry?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): The matter is still under consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Do not Government consider this matter as urgent?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. Government do consider this as urgent but, since it is to be an expert committee, we are in a little difficulty to find the expert personnel.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the question is hanging fire for the last six months?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It has been hanging fire but, in the meantime, the conditions have improved and the fire has been partially extinguished.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the labourers' condition is still unhappy now though.....

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Labourers are also less unhappy now than before.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that 60,000 labourers are on strike in Assam?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice about it.

PERMIT SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL TO AND FROM FRENCH INDIA

*64. SHRI B. RATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: