

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI NENON); (a) and (b). Yes, but no tangible result has come out so far.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether there was any meeting between the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Ceylon on this matter?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:
• There has been no meeting recently here. Of course, our representative in Ceylon has met Ministers and others in Ceylon.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether the Government is aware that some sort of discriminatory treatment is being given to the Indians in Ceylon with regard to the issue of ration cards and appointments?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes. There is a question on that, I think. Some particulars are given in a subsequent question.

RISE IN ESTIMATED COST OF HIRAKUD PROJECT

*10. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated cost of the Hirakud Project has again gone up; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this rise in the cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) and (b). The attention of the hon. Minister is invited to the Press Communique which issued on the 9th February 1953, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 6.]

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that the estimate of Rs. 62J crores in the year 1952 has been increased to Rs. 67J crores?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In the first year the estimate was Rs. 72 crores. Now it is Rs. 61.79 crores, after the revised estimate and the Report of the Mazumdar Committee.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know who is responsible for the miscalculations?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It was not a question of miscalculations. It was a question of deleting certain figures of the Delta Irrigation which were not to be included therein.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that, the net estimate of Rs. 62J crores has been arrived at by reducing the money that will be realised from resale of buildings and stores and tools and plants?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: May I refer the hon. Member to page 2 of the Press Communique, a copy of which has been laid on the Table, and which specifically mentions the point raised by the hon. Member?

SHRI B. RATH: My point is: Has it not been increased by one crore?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I shall read that portion.

"In December 1952, the Hirakud Control Board, while considering the latest estimates for Stage I, felt that the gross outlay on the project should be calculated by ignoring receipts on capital account, in view of the possibility of the receipts not being realised by the time Stage I of the project was completed. The increase due to omission of receipts on account of resale value of the buildings and stores, and on special tools and plant is Rs. 5:64 crores. If the receipts are not taken into account, the revised estimate works out to Rs. 67:43 crores."

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that the value given in the Mazumdar Committee's Report by totalling all the amounts of the resale comes to about 44 crores and not 5:64 crores?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: So far as my information goes, it comes to 5.64 crores.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Was there any appreciable margin of error in the calculations?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: No, Sir.

SHRI B. RATH: On page 2 it has been said: "Later Government considered that work on Delta Irrigation should not be authorised on the basis of estimates only." When was this decision taken by the Government?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In 1952 or so.

SHRI B. RATH: When exactly? In what month?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I do not exactly know the month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notice.

SHRI B. RATH: What will be the total cost Of Delta Irrigation?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The cost of the Delta Irrigation is included. The details are not available.

SHRI B. RATH: So, when the details are not available, how has the cost of Delta Irrigation been estimated?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Sir, the question is that the survey is to be made. So far as the returns of receipts are concerned these things have to be surveyed. But if the project

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not the fact that the Mazumdar Committee has given the figure as Rs. 11.09 crores for Delta Irrigation?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: That means it is included in these estimates.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that the Committee was not satisfied that there was any investigation as to the work that would be done in the Delta

area and that is why it advised investigation?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have no information that the Committee was not satisfied with that.

SHRI B. RATH: If after investigation it is found that in the case of Delta Irrigation more money is required, is the Government prepared to sanction it or will it reduce the amount of work in the Delta area?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It all depends upon the circumstances prevailing then.

TEA INDUSTRY

*11. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the world markets, the supply of tea is more than the demand;

(b) whether as a result of depression in the export of tea, many tea gardens are being forced to close;

(c) whether export and excise duties are continuing to be levied on tea exports;

(d) whether it is proposed to increase the wages of the tea estate labourers; and

(e) whether the garden owners have to bear an enormous expenditure on subsidizing rationed food?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-MACHARI) : (a) It is a matter of opinion. There are some people who hold the view that the world supply of tea is slightly in excess of the demand.

(b) It is true that some tea gardens are being closed. The causes might be due to the slump in tea prices and inadequacy of financial resources.

(c.) Yes.

(d) I do not understand the import of this question. It seems that movement is the other way about.