

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: What facilities are considered to be overliberal has to be considered, and Government is taking steps to see that reasonable facilities are given and others are stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Estimates Committee made a recommendation that the construction allowance should be stopped, and the hon. Member says it was not a mere recommendation but it had a mandatory character. The hon. Minister says that it is under consideration. He wishes to know at what stage is that consideration.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The construction allowance is being continued.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: As regards recommendation No. 46, Government have said that they have accepted the recommendation. The recommendation was that the reasons for all decisions should be recorded in writing. May I know if this procedure is being followed by the Hirakud Board also?

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

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know if they have recorded in writing the circumstances which led to the postponement of the construction of the power dam and the subsidiary channel?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: This is being done after Government accepted the recommendation.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT ON
HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

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

(a) the reasons why the 'Technical feasibility of the Hirakud Project' was included in the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee on Hirakud Dam Project, which was appointed by Government on the 10th January 1952;

(b) if so whether the Committee reported on the above mentioned point; if not, why not; and

(c) why Section III of the Report of the said Committee has been omitted from the printed Report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) and (b). By including 'technical feasibility of the Hirakud Project' in the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee it was only meant that the Committee should examine the soundness of the technical features as included in the revised project estimate and suggest readjustments and improvements where necessary. This was done by the Advisory Committee vide their recommendations in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.30 in Section II of the Report. It was not intended that the Committee should go into the broad question whether the construction of the Hirakud Dam Project was the best method of obtaining the benefits expected. This question had already been examined by the Advisory Committee in 1948 and their recommendations in this regard had been accepted.

(c) Section III of the Report omitted from the printed Report relates to 'Land acquisition and compensation'. This subject is under discussion with the State Government in consultation with the Planning Commission and it is not in the public interest to publish at this stage the observations of the Committee on this subject.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: As regards (a), I have to ask if the Government satisfied themselves as to the technical feasibility of the project before they undertook this work.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: So far as the feasibility of the dam was concerned, they were satisfied.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Then, what has the hon. Minister to say about the Mazumdar Committee's observation that the present dam site was not an ideal one?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Committee has said that it is not an ideal one.

but it is of course the best. That is what they think.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The hon. Minister just now stated that Government had satisfied themselves about the technical feasibility of the project, whereas a technical committee like the Mazumdar Committee has observed that the dam site was not an ideal one. All right. I will pass on to the next one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not bother about the previous one!

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that there is no special advantage in the power produced in Hirakud inasmuch as it is neither cheap nor too plentiful?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is mentioned in the report itself.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Then how does the Minister say that the question of technical feasibility was considered in full.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: In such projects it is always advantageous and beneficial to appoint committees of experts to review the project as it progresses. The portion that has already been constructed had of course already been reviewed, but with changes in designs and in models, it may be that the technical committee may, with the data before them, say that a particular portion may be constructed in a particular way and that would be most advantageous. That is always the practice, and it is beneficial to have such committees which will review the work as the construction progresses.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: There is no gainsaying the fact that there are many advantages in appointing such committees, but my question was about the production of power. Here is the observation of the Committee that the dam site is not an ideal site and there is no special advantage in its power production. Therefore, am I to infer that the Government did not consider all these aspects of the question before they undertook the project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is not the very best, but it can do, because the ideal site may be somewhere else. It may not be possible to get the ideal site for a dam, but in the circumstances and from the data available, that was the best.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: As regards part (c), is it a fact that the amount of compensation has been increased from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 11.71 crores? If so, what necessitated the increase?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Section III of the report, as I have said in the reply, is omitted.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: It is omitted, and I did not ask the hon. Minister to produce the section. What I ask is, is it a fact that the amount of compensation to be paid to the displaced persons has increased from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 11.71 crores, and if so, what necessitated the increase? It is there in the report.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: How? The report is not published.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In another part of the report which is published. I am sorry I did not make myself understood. It has been mentioned that the compensation has been increased from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 11.71 crores. So I want to know what necessitated the increase. Let me explain. Thousands of persons in Hirakud have been living in lurch without compensation. I wanted to know the necessity for this increase. I am not going into the subject of the report.

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The question of giving compensation is being dealt with by the Orissa Government itself; so it was on their figures that it was raised from Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 11.71 crores.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: That is not a reply to my question. What necessitated the increase?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: They might have estimated that from Rs. 5 crores it might go up to Rs. 11.71 crores.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Have the Central Government asked them any question about it, as the Central Government are footing the Bill?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Or is it merely that they jumped from 5 to 11 crores?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It is being discussed, as I have just mentioned.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: How many cases regarding payment of compensation have been disposed of so far, and how many cases are pending?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I will require notice

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that this third chapter which has been omitted from the report had made certain serious allegations against the officers in charge of the land and house compensation department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The report is still not published, and what it contains cannot be affirmed or denied.

SHRI B. RATH: This report was published last year, in 1952. The Minister says that it is still under consideration. How long should we wait for the consideration to be over and for that chapter to be published?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

SHRI B. RATH: How long will it take? That chapter contains these allegations.

(No reply.)

AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

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

(a) the total number of American Technicians and Engineers employed in the Bhakra Dam Project;

(b) the names, designations and technical qualifications of, and the salaries and emoluments drawn by, each of such technicians and engineers; and

(c) whether Government have entered into any agreement with the Government of the United States of America in respect of these persons; and, if so, whether Government will lay a copy of such agreement on the Table of the Council?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) 41;

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 44.]

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Before I put any other supplementary question, I want to know from which fund—whether the Consolidated Fund of India or the fund of Technical Co-operation Administration—are these American experts drawing their salary?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: This is paid, Sir, by the Punjab Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: It may be, Sir, by the Punjab Government. But from which fund are these salaries paid to them? Have you placed certain funds at the disposal of the Punjab Government for reimbursing the salary of these gentlemen?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: The Central Government gives a loan to the Punjab Government and the Punjab Government pays from that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Now, my main supplementaries will follow. Sir, I hope the attention of the hon. Minister must have been drawn to the Estimates Committee observation in paragraph 112 where it is said that in all cases where foreigners are appointed, it must be stated why an Indian is not available and why we cannot train Indians in a reasonable period of time