

drains and channels of tube-wells in such a way that they would not collapse

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: Since this particular aspect of the problem has been accepted by Government, may I know whether Government will take any steps to see that such unnecessary expenditure is not incurred in the future?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It is very necessary that Government should be very serious about it

Sikh Pilgrims to Pakistan

*17. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Pakistan recently refused the Government of India's request for visas for Sikh pilgrims who were desirous of visiting Lahore on the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjun Dev in the last month?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Yes, Sir The Government of Pakistan refused permission in case of a pilgrim party of 500 Sikhs who desired to visit Gurdwara Dera Sahib and other Sikh Historical Gurdwaras in Lahore from 30th May to 3rd June, 1957 on the ground that they were unable to make necessary arrangements due to the short notice given to them

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether the Government of Pakistan has any rule regarding the duration of time before which requests should be made for visas?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, three months' notice has to be given

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India were moved as far back as January, 1957, for such permission?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The request for permission was referred to the Pakistan Government only on the 15th of April.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: May I know when that information was conveyed to the Pakistan Government?

Mr. Speaker: On 15th April. The Minister has already stated that.

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: May I know whether any enquiry will be made as to why this delay of four months was there, especially when the Government of India had been moved in January?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There were some defects in the information sent, and by the time it came, it got delayed from the Punjab Government.

National Development Council

*18. **Shri N. E. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to lay a statement giving the important decisions taken at the recent meeting of the National Development Council held in New Delhi in May, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): A paper setting forth the important conclusions and suggestions arising out of the deliberations at the ninth meeting of the National Development Council held on June 3 and 4, 1957 is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 3]

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether any formula has been evolved to ensure maintenance of regional balance as one of the main objectives of planning, since it is apt to be overlooked in the interests of overall and rapid development, and if so, what it is?

Shri S. N. Mishra: This was not an item considered by the National Development Council at its meeting in June last

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether the Chief Ministers of the different States were requested not to start a race with competing claims in regard to projects of one kind or another which will benefit in the long run, to the neglect of the development of other areas?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I could not follow the question.