

EXCAVATIONS AT AMRELI

*932. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have sanctioned any financial aid for carrying out excavations at Amreli in Baroda; and

(b) if so, what amount of money has been sanctioned for that purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 10,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the nature of the excavations carried out there?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The work is still in progress and we are getting reports.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether any useful purpose is served by these excavations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is the general policy. The hon. Member is an expert in archaeology.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*933. **Shri Aji Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have any estimate of the number of displaced persons in the Punjab and PEPSU who took possession of their allotments at first, but subsequently left their lands and went away?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): No.

CONCURRENCE OF FINANCIAL ADVISER

*938. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to change the present arrangement of obtaining the previous concurrence of the Financial Adviser in all decisions involving financial commitments by the Chief Engineers in the execution of the Central Projects?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): It is presumed that the hon. Member has in mind centrally administered Irrigation and Power Projects. There is no proposal at present for altering provisions in the Public Works Codes or any current orders of the Central Government wherein previous concurrence of Finance is prescribed, before financial commitments can be entered into by Project Officers. There are other proposals which might involve a transfer of the responsibility for financial advice to some other instrument and these are under consideration.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if the Finance Minister in giving this reply has got the concurrence of the Irrigation Minister?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: Consequent on the difficulties and friction arising out of the accounting procedure at Hirakud, may I know whether the Government has come to any conclusion with regard to the powers of the engineers vis a vis the Financial Adviser.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is a certain confusion about this matter. The Financial Adviser discharges two separate functions. He gives financial advice, and he also looks after the compilation of the accounts. The proposals that are under consideration are in regard to the accounts which are at present run under a centralised system. The proposals that have been made are of the nature of decentralising some of this work. If those proposals are accepted, it may be then that the total functions of the Financial Adviser as such would be reduced and therefore I said that in that case the work of financial advice may be transferred to some other agency.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if any change is contemplated regarding financial advising and the methods adopted in regard to irrigation projects on the spot?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I understand this to be a general question.

There is no change contemplated as a sort of general case.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is there any other proposal...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we are proceeding to consider the concurrence or otherwise of the Financial Adviser for ensuring general checks and counter-checks.

Shri T. N. Singh: No, Sir. I was only asking this: there is a Financial Adviser on the spot. I was asking whether there is any proposal to restrict the powers and functions of the Financial Adviser on the spot.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That is implied in the answers I have given. In case the other functions of the Financial Adviser are removed from him and entrusted to other agencies the question would arise whether it is worth while maintaining that post merely for the purpose of giving financial advice on the spot. It might be then possible to entrust those functions to some other officer like the Joint Secretary, Finance Ministry who is represented on the Hirakud Control Board.