

NATIONAL EXTENSION SCHEME IN HYDERABAD

***750. Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount granted to Hyderabad State under the National Extension Scheme; and

(b) the areas included in this Scheme in Hyderabad State?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). Budget proposals and proposals regarding selection of areas are awaited from the State Government.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether this scheme involves Technical Co-operation Administration aid?

Shri Hathi: This scheme does not.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, what are the criteria that are taken into account in the selection of areas for the National Extension Scheme?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a broader question. This question refers to the Hyderabad scheme.

Shri K. K. Basu: It can be extended, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is already a scheme. A book was circulated to hon. Members saying that 34 schemes or so are there.

Shri Nanadas: I want to know whether the Central Government has got anything to say about the selection of these areas?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is the Central Government that has selected these areas. What has it more to say?

Shri Nanadas: The Minister says...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question seems to be too general.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there is any proposal to recruit a large number of workers for this

National Extension Scheme? If so, what would be the approximate number of workers?

Shri Hathi: The pamphlet which I referred to in reply to the previous question mentions the number of village workers and other persons that will be necessary for each block.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The other day this matter came up. The hon. Minister gave 34 or 35 centres where instruction is being given, some undertaken by the State Governments, some by the Central Government and so on.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know what are the points that weighed with the Government in the selection of this particular area in Hyderabad State for the introduction of the scheme?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was also answered. The State recommends certain things, and the Centre adopts it. It is too general. The hon. Member may suggest something. So much of literature has been given with respect to it. There are experiments going on all over. I am sure the Government will welcome hon. Members going through the literature and studying and then suggesting any particular things which are wanting according to them. But what is the use of generally asking the same question, "What is the scheme", though it has been in existence since October last. Next question.

MANUFACTURE OF OPTICAL GLASS

***751. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for the production of optical glass;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made by any technical expert as to the feasibility of the manufacture of this material in the National Instruments Factory;

(c) for what other purposes excepting for opthamly, this material can be used as raw material; and

(d) the recommendations of the Planning Commission in the matter?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; the Government of India secured the services of Dr. W. M. Hampton, Technical Director of Messrs. Chance Brothers Ltd, Birmingham, under the Colombo Plan for the purpose.

(c) For use in optical instruments—I may also add that it is a valuable strategic material.

(d) The Planning Commission has recommended that the Optical Glass Project should be taken up as a part of the reorganisation scheme of the National Instruments Factory.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what was the report submitted by Dr. Hampton, when he left India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Dr. Hampton has not submitted any regular report; but he made some recommendations, and these recommendations have been considered by the Government, who are now taking steps to get suitable technical participants, in order to go ahead with this project.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know when this proposal of establishing this optical glass part in the National Instruments Factory, will materialise? Will the Government have to acquire land and construct other buildings also? If so, what will be the estimated cost?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is premature to answer some parts of the question put by the hon. Member. I do not think that any elaborate buildings will be required for the purpose of setting up this plant. New buildings are being put up near Calcutta at Jadabpur, to which the National Instruments Factory which is now being run at Calcutta will be shifted. Once the new buildings are completed, we will have enough accommodation there for locating this optical glass unit also.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: What is the capital involved in this factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: If, as we are contemplating now, the capacity of the plant is to be 25 tons, the capital cost will be of the order of about Rs. 22 lakhs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that ordinary bottle glass is being sold in the bazars as optical glass? If so, will the Government take or have they taken any measures to check that?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of that, but this is a question which can more properly be answered by my hon. colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any factory producing optical glass at present in our country.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Not that I am aware of.

Shri K. K. Basu: When will this plant see the light of day?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The hon. Member is a little impatient. I am afraid we have not yet taken a firm decision as regards the setting up of the factory, and on what lines. So it is rather premature to say when this factory will actually go into production.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any sum has been set apart by the Planning Commission, for this optical glass business in the near future?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The Planning Commission has included this also in the Five Year Plan. They have provided funds for the reorganisation of the National Instruments Factory, to the tune of about Rs. 182 lakhs. This optical glass part is also included in that.