

Shri A. C. Guba: May I know if at the time of the cease-fire there were any civilian prisoners from the other side with us, and if so, what has happened to them?

Shri Satish Chandra: I require notice for that.

BETTERMENT FEE

*1063. **Dr. Nataraj Pandey:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought to be realised from the levy of betterment fee from the people affected by the Hirakud Dam Project; and

(b) whether the amount greatly exceeds the total annual income of the whole of the State of Orissa?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

INDIAN CENTRAL OIL-SEEDS COMMITTEE

*1064. **Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Central Oil-seeds Committee has requested Government to give it representation on the Export Advisory Council; and

(b) what decision has finally been taken?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representation was given to two members of the Oil and Oil-seeds export trade who were also, at the time, members of the Indian Central Oil-seeds Committee. The question of making any changes will be considered when the Council is due for reconstitution next October.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know what is the composition of this Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice. The information has been published in the Gazette, which is available in the Library.

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR CONTRACTS BY D.V.C.

*1065. **Shri Sankarapandian:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Corporation is maintaining a schedule of rates for giving contracts;

(b) if so, from what year; and

(c) on what basis the schedule rate is fixed?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Since 1949.

(c) The rates of schedule were worked out on the basis of prevailing rates of labour and material. The specifications that were followed in drawing up the schedule were compiled from the specifications for works in Chota Nagpur Circle of Bihar Public Works Department, almost all the work-sites of the Corporation being located in that circle.

CONTRACTS BY D.V.C.

*1066. **Shri Sankarapandian:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Damodar Valley Corporation gives contracts by negotiation without competitive tenders being called for?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): Contracts are invariably given after obtaining competitive tenders except in some rare cases where the work involved is small and of an urgent nature.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know whether tenders are invited from all over India if the amount exceeds a certain sum, say, Rs. 20,000 or 30,000?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I should like to have notice of the question.

FIFTH REPORT OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

*1067. **Shri Kelappan:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state if any action has been taken to remedy the danger and drawbacks in having the same person to prepare proposals and estimate and also to sanction and execute the works pointed out by the Estimates Committee in its Fifth Report (1951-52) para 12?

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): This question was transferred only this morning and it has not therefore been possible to circulate the answer. The general principle urged in this paragraph seems *prima facie* sound, but as I have said before in the House, the whole of the report is under examination at the moment and it is not possible to give a conclusive answer at this stage.

Shri Kelappan: Is it not a fact that the Estimates Committee recommended last year that the Commission should