

is in progress. In addition, small reservoirs on the Rapti are also under construction.

In regard to Bihar, the position is that proposals are under consideration of the State Government for filling up the gaps in Champaran embankment on the left bank of the river Gandak and improving about 16 miles of the Saran embankment along the right bank of the river.

MEETING OF THE PRIME MINISTERS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

***214. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been finally agreed to hold a meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan in March, 1955;

(b) whether any conference of officials of India and Pakistan will also be held before the meeting of the two Prime Ministers;

(c) whether all outstanding issues between the two countries will also be discussed; and

(d) whether Karachi has been fixed as venue of the meeting?

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. The meeting of the Prime Ministers will be held in New Delhi, while the meetings of the Steering Committees, consisting of officials of the two Governments, will be held in Karachi and in New Delhi.

GOA

***219. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that post Offices in Goa have been directed by the Portuguese authorities not to effect delivery of literature generally coming from India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The Government have seen reports in the press, which the Portuguese Legation have denied, that secret ins-

tructions have been issued to post offices in Goa to stop the distribution of Prime Minister's speech in the Foreign Affairs Debate and other literature received from the Consulate General of India, Goa.

CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CENSORS

***221. Shri B. D. Shastri:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Regional Censor Boards are proposed to be dissolved and their work transferred to the Central Board; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

***222. Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated cost of the Bhakra-Nangal Project has been revised recently;

(b) if so, what is the revised estimated cost;

(c) how much expenditure has been incurred so far; and

(d) by what time the Project is expected to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 157.39 crores. The revised estimate is under the consideration of the Bhakra Control Board.

(c) Rs. 99 crores upto the end of Nov., 1954.

(d) By the end of 1959.

COSMIC RAY RESEARCH LABORATORY (OOTACAMUND)

***227. Shri S. K. Razmi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken regarding the setting up of a

Cosmic Ray Research Laboratory at Ootacamund;

(b) whether the building for the purpose has been acquired; and

(c) when is the Laboratory expected to start work?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The Government of India have taken no decision to set up a Cosmic Ray Research Laboratory at Ootacamund though several sites in Ootacamund were visited by Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission last summer with a view to ascertaining their suitability for a cosmic ray station in South India.

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is carrying out some high altitude cosmic ray experiments at Ootacamund. The equipment is located in the Gate House Quarters at Raj Bhawan, which have been placed temporarily at the disposal of the Institute through the personal interest of the Governor of Madras.

MAHE CITIZENS

***228. Shri Punnoose:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that restrictions on the civil liberties etc. of about 50 nationalist workers in Mahe have not yet been removed by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that they are being proceeded against for their political activities during the pre-merger movement; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (c). There are no restrictions on civil liberty in the entire state of Pondicherry including Mahe. The Hon'ble Member is most probably referring to certain old judgements of conviction

passed *in absentia* in 1950 by the former French India Government against some nationalists leaders of Mahe for their political activities against the French Administration. All these judgements have since been quashed.

EMPLOYMENT

***229. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned for full employment through the development of the self employment sector of the National economy;

(b) if so, the nature of the plan; and

(c) within what period the entire unemployment problem is expected to be solved?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

GOA

***231. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Portuguese Government have released all Satyagrahis arrested for entering Goa;

(b) whether Government have received any note from the Portuguese authorities about this; and

(c) if so, how many persons have actually been released?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). On the 14th and 15th January, 1955, fifty seven Satyagrahis, who had been in detention in Goa without trial, were released and sent across the border into India. Prior information was given in a note from the Portuguese Legation.