

Shri Shah nawas Khan: For the time being, there is no such intention.

Shri Matthen: Is the hon. Minister aware that when the new line connecting Ernakulam and Quilon was announced and when the work was started, it was on account of the large abundance of electric power nearby? The previous hon. Minister promised us that it would be electrified. In view of the peculiar circumstances prevailing there, namely, density of population, very close stations, etc. is the hon. Minister now inclined to consider electrification?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think there is any proposal to introduce electrification in that area at present and I am afraid that during the Second Plan period, it would not be possible.

Somasila Project

*28. **Shri Ramachandra Reddi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2057 on the 12th September, 1956 and state:

(a) whether any attempt was made to remodel the design and reduce the estimates of the Somasila Project in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

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

(b) The cost of the Project has been brought down from Rs. 16.56 crores to Rs. 8.53 crores.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether the Andhra Pradesh State has been consulted in the matter and whether that State has taken any initiative in getting this work through?

Shri Hathi: The Central Water Power Commission has suggested several changes in the designs with a view to effect economy and these have been sent to the State Government. They are working on the details of the project.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is it not a fact that the Kavali and Kanupur canals can be covered by this project if this project is taken on hand?

Shri Hathi: They may be taken up but they may also be taken up with Pennar. It is a question of excavating the canals and drawing water. That could be done independent of this project also.

Shri Murthy: May I know whether the reduction in the estimate will not reduce the area benefited?

Shri Hathi: The area would not be reduced. Only the designs have been changed. The length of the dam has been changed.

Tungabhadra Project

*29. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has allotted any amount to the development works under the Tungabhadra Project; and

(b) what are the main works of developments undertaken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir. A provision of Rs. 237.5 lakhs has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for development works on the Tungabhadra Project area in the Mysore State. As various schemes of development in the Andhra area have been merged in various sectors, no specific and separate allotment has been shown in the Second Five Year Plan for the development works on the Tungabhadra Project Area in that State.

(b) A statement showing the main works of development undertaken by the Governments of Andhra and Mysore is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. (See Appendix I, annexure No. 3.)

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether any special agency has

been set up to inspect the development work or whether the work is entrusted to the regional commissioners?

Shri Hathi: That is being looked after by the State Governments and they have appointed special establishments for these purposes.

Index Number of Cereals.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I request you to permit question No. 15 being answered by the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

*15. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the index number of food articles today as compared to the years 1939 and 1945;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the disappearance of *atta* from markets particularly in West Bengal and the phenomenal rise of rice prices even in the paddy harvesting season;

(c) how far fair price shops have been able to contribute to the regularisation of supply; and

(d) what measures have been adopted to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The index number of food articles was 248 in 1945 and 405.8 in February, 1957, with 1939 as the base period.

(b) A temporary shortage of *atta* occurred for a short while in Calcutta market but with the measures taken by Government the position improved and is now quite satisfactory. It is true that there has been some rise in the prices of rice during the last couple of months.

(c) The fair price shops have to a great extent ensured supplies to a large section of consumers at reasonable prices and have thus relieved the open market from a considerable demand thereby preventing abnormal rise in prices,

(d) Government have taken the following measures:—

(i) The purchase of foodgrains from internal markets has been stopped by Government.

(ii) Advances by banks against stocks of foodgrains have been regulated and curtailed to check hoarding of stocks.

(iii) Large number of fair price shops have been set up for distribution of foodgrains, from Government stocks at prescribed prices.

(iv) Import of substantial quantities from abroad.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether it is not a fact that the scheduled banks are allowed to give money against paddy?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Certain restrictions have been imposed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: What has been the amount of speculation or advances made against paddy in West Bengal during the last two months?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Advances on paddy and other foodgrains had been curtailed; they can pay only up to a certain percentage; above that, they would not pay.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Since it is the experience in Calcutta that even now long queues are found outside the shops selling *atta*, may I know the basis of the Government's information or Government's answer that the *atta* situation is all right.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is a thing of the past. Only last month, during the time of the elections, there was so much propaganda going on in the country. The supplies in Calcutta were limited. We have doubled the supply to Calcutta. Where we have been issuing thirty thousand tons of wheat per month, we have doubled the quantity.