

Shri Thirumala Rao: The hon. Minister said that there are 1100 unmann-ed crossings. (*Interruption*) Have they estimated the cost involved in manning all these?

Mr. Speaker: That has been said in answer to the debate that was raised here.

Supply of Railway Equipment by British Firm

*801. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed by the Railway Board with a British firm for the supply and installation of Overhead equipment for railway electrification in Calcutta region;

(b) if so, the total cost involved;

(c) how this cost is going to be met; and

(d) what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V Ramaswamy): (a) During the III Plan two contracts have so far been awarded to a British firm.

(b). The total cost involved is Rs. 1,62,44,619.00 (Rupees one crore sixty two lakhs fortyfour thousand six hundred and nineteen).

(c). The foreign exchange content of these contracts will be met from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Loans.

(d). The firm is to supply, erect and commission 25 kV A.C. overhead equipment including wires, fittings, insulators etc. It has also to maintain the installation for 12 months

after commissioning. An important condition of the contract is that indigenous materials should be used to the maximum possible extent. Works on the two contracts are due to be completed in March '63 and October '63.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Indian firms were asked to give their tenders for this? May I also know whether the Ministry propose to electrify other zones also?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It was a global tender. One Indian firm also tendered. But, since the British firm's tender was the lowest the contract was given to that firm.

Supply of Electric Locomotives by Japanese Firm

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 *802. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have placed orders for supply of Electric Locomotives on some Japanese firm;

(b) whether any contract has been signed for this;

(c) number of locomotives ordered; and

(d) when the supply will be received?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, in December, 1961.

(c). 28 Mixed Traffic type AC Broad Gauge locomotives.

(d). Delivery is expected to commence in March 1963 and be completed by the middle of 1964.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What is the cost involved in all these?

Mr. Speaker: It is not possible to listen to the hon. Member. He should speak more loudly. Supplementary questions should come as shooting arrows.

Shri Subodh Hansda: I speak loudly, Sir.

Shri Shanawaz Khan: The cost of the 28 broad gauge AC locomotives is Rs. 2,68,07,139; spares, Rs. 14,29,286

Shri Subodh Hansda: The Minister stated that the spares have been ordered from the Japanese firm. May I know it is not a fact that these are manufactured in the Chittaranjan factory? If so, what is the necessity for giving orders to this Japanese firm?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is not a fact.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether global tenders were invited; and if not, why the Japanese firm was entrusted with the work?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Global tenders were invited and the Japanese firm's tender was the lowest.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether there is any special advantage with these locomotives over other locomotives?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These locomotives are as good as any other locomotives; only, they are cheaper.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if Japan has any special characteristics for producing these locomotives that other countries do not have?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Global tenders were invited and we placed the orders on the country which is prepared to supply the locomotives to us at the cheapest cost.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know what effort has been made to manufacture these engines indigenously?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As the hon. House is aware, we have already started manufacturing DC electric locomotives at Chittaranjan. We have manufactured 10 and we are now thinking of manufacturing AC electric locomotives at Chittaranjan in the near future.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the payment will be made in rupee currency or in foreign exchange? Why were tenders from India and from abroad kept at par?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I am not aware of any tenders being received from Indian firms. Because the IAC locomotives.

Mr. Speaker: Probably, the hon. Member means that Indians should have preference over others, other things being equal.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Electric locomotives are not manufactured in India.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Not yet.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: How does the cost of the Indian manufactured locomotive work out in comparison with the imported Japanese one?

Shri Shanawaz Khan: These orders are for AC electric locomotives. No AC locomotives are being manufactured in India at present.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Why not?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We are going to do that.

Mr. Speaker: How can there be a comparison if they are not being manufactured?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Yet, there can be some comparison.

Mr. Speaker: There can be no comparison.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : सरकार ने ब्राडगेज के लिये ही लोकोमोटिव्स के आर्डर दिये हैं या गरीब मीटर गेज के लिये भी कुछ आर्डर दिये गये हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : मीटर गेज के लिये भी टेंडर्स दिये गये हैं और उम्मीद है कि वे टेंडर्स बहुत जल्दी फाइनलाइज किये जायेंगे ।

Shri Vishram Prasad: May I know how much foreign exchange has been allotted for the purchase of these locomotives, and how long will it take to make the country self-sufficient in the production of such locomotives?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I have stated already that for these 28 locomotives the cost is Rs. 2,82,36,425. We hope to be in a position to manufacture 60 to 70 A.C. locomotives by the end of the third Plan.

2 Construction of New Vessels

*803. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved two schemes for granting loans for the construction of new vessels on scientific lines and for merchandising the existing sailing vessels;

(b) if so, how much amount has been set apart for these schemes; and

(c) the broad outlines of these schemes?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The reference is presumably to the scheme for mechanisation (and not merchandising of existing sailing vessels) and construction of new sailing vessels on scientific line. Provision to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 85 lakhs respectively exists in the Third Five Year Plan for

these two schemes. It has been proposed that the Maritime State Governments concerned should grant the financial assistance involved to the sailing vessels operators on the basis of loans received by those Governments from the Central Government. They have, accordingly, been addressed and further action will be taken on receipt of their replies.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know how many new vessels will be built and how many sailing vessels will be merchandised through these loans according to the present scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Initially, the allocations were made on the basis that locally manufactured diesel engines should be available for this. On that basis, the number was 100, to be mechanised, and 85 for new construction. Since then a change has taken place because locally manufactured engines are not yet available and now the anticipated number, for which the sanction has been asked from the Planning Commission is 50 for mechanisation and 79 for new construction.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the loan scheme will cover both private and the public sector enterprises?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These are entirely by the private agencies. I do not think the Government owns any sailing vessel.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether any of the maritime State Governments has agreed in principle to participate in these two schemes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have addressed them; we hope that they will act in the matter. That is our hope. But I cannot say if anyone of them has yet signified its assent to this.

3 Community Development

*804. **Shri Man Singh P. Patel:** Will the Minister of Community Develop-