

Zonal Transport Corporation

+

745. { Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Minister of Transport and Shipping has recently proposed to the State Governments concerned to set up a Zonal Transport Corporation for the States of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam, and

(b) the reaction of the State Governments in that regard?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required is laid on the table of the House.

(a) and (b). No proposal has been made to the Orissa Bihar, West Bengal and Assam Governments for setting up a Zonal Transport Corporation.

2. However, in the course of a meeting held in the room of the Chief Minister, West Bengal, on 8-2-1963 to consider certain matters relating to road and inland water transport in the West Bengal-Assam area, it was suggested that a scheme might be formulated whereunder the Governments of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal could be associated with the Road Transport Organisation set up by the Department of Transport for the movement of essential supplies to Assam and North Bengal.

3. This suggestion has been examined by the Government of India. Since the scheme of the Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950, does not envisage the establishment of a corporation by the Central Government to provide transport services in more than one State, a proposal for the conversion of the departmentally operated road transport undertaking into a limited Company, under the Companies Act, 1956, is under consideration. In case a company is incorporated, it will be open to the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Assam to participate in it as share-holders in due course.

Shri Maheswar Naik: From the statement, I find that the departmentally-run road transport undertaking is to be converted into a limited company in which Bihar, West Bengal and Assam will be shareholders. Why has Orissa been excluded as it also comes under the eastern zone?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not essentially a zonal programme. The road transport organisation was set up for a specific purpose, to meet the situation arising out of the strike of the Pakistani crew in the river services. At present, we have set up a departmental organisation which has to be converted into a company in which the concerned State Governments may join. In case the Orissa Government shows any desire or anxiety for joining it purely for commercial reasons, that is a matter which will be settled only by discussion.

Shri Maheswar Naik: In formulating this scheme, has the regional disparity existing so far as taxation measures are concerned in different States been done away with?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question is rather extraneous to the original question.

Mr. Speaker: I also feel likewise.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Is the formation of this corporation taking place simply to keep our shipping service safe from any future action of the Pakistani crew or is it to facilitate the incoming and outgoing traffic particularly in relation to Assam?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the very nature of things this road transport organisation cannot protect our shipping or inland water transport. It is to provide an alternative means of communication because it is a not prudent to depend entirely on one single line of communication, namely, the railways or to depend on the circumstance of there being no further trouble so far as inland water transport is concerned, because it has to pass through Pakistan territory.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : नेशनल इमरजेंसी की वजह से इस्टर्न जोन में ट्रांसपोर्ट और कम्युनिकेशंस का जो सवाल पैदा हुआ है तो उसके संबंध में क्या कोआरडिनेशन मिनिस्टर के कुछ खास सुझाव दिये थे, यदि हां, तो क्या उस पर विचार किया गया है और यदि किया गया है तो क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं नम्रतापूर्वक निवेदन करूंगा कि कोआरडिनेशन मिनिस्टर ने जब उस इलाके का दौरा किया उसके पहले ही वह भारगनाइजेशन सैट अप कर दी गई थी और उस सम्बन्ध में जो कुछ कार्यवाही की गई थी उसको उन्होंने एक प्रकार से भ्रष्टा ही समझा ।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What is the programme of Government to secure better and greater coordination of road transport in these States and in States of the western borders of India particularly? Is it proposed to have a corporation such as the one mentioned in the statement laid on the Table for the western border States of India?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think it would be a far-fetched question. But so far as co-ordination with railways is concerned, I think I should reply. We propose to set up a board of management in which representation will be given to the railways too which will ensure the necessary co-ordination and co-operation between road and rail.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : इस कार्य में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है और असम के लिये माल ढोने में इस से कुछ सहूलियत बढ़ी है या नहीं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : इस समय तक ५० ट्रक्स लिये जा चुके हैं और जैसे काम मिलता रहता है उसको काम में लगाया जाता है । ५० ट्रक्स और लिये जा रहे हैं और मैं कह सकता हूँ कि अब तक के जो नतीजे हैं वे सन्तोषजनक हैं ।

Shri Basumatari In view of the fact that there was a strike by the crew of the Joint Steamer Company, has this corporation been set up to meet such a situation in a time of emergency?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is exactly the purpose. We cannot anticipate what the Pakistani crew will do and whether they would have an opportunity to strike. It is to meet any untoward situation that this scheme has been envisaged.

Shri R. Barua: If the corporation is not commercially sound, will the Central Government step in to give a subsidy?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is a Central Government organisation at present. It is proposed to be run under the Ministry of Transport. The question of subsidy has not yet arisen because we find the first results encouraging. In fact, we think that if conditions continue as they are even in regard to availability of traffic or goods, it might work well.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Is it the intention of Government to extend the scope of this corporation to other States especially in the southern zone where nationalisation of bus transport has taken place?

Mr. Speaker: That is beyond the scope of the original question.

Agricultural Implements Centre at Aligarh

*746. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a Centre for Agricultural implements at Aligarh under the Package Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

साथ तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) : (क) और (ख) एक विवरण समा पत्र पर रखा जाता है ।