

ईस्ट यूरोपियन कन्ट्रीज़ से मंगा कर पूरा करने की बात चला रहे हैं।

**Shri Tyagi:** Is there any plan to set up tractor stations in various regions from where cultivators could avail of the agricultural machinery on hire?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** That is a scheme I shall have to consider because it is very useful. I want to recommend this idea.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the Planning Commission does not hold very progressive views about progressive mechanisation? If so, is he going to convert them to his view because there is a demand on the part of farmers for progressive mechanisation?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** I recognise that without going in that direction progressively, there will not be a suitable increase in production because the most modern techniques are required to be introduced in our agriculture. I do not want to shirk that responsibility.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Since the ceiling law has limited the size of holdings, have Government any programme for importing or manufacturing small tractors of 8—10 range?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** We are having that in view. Small tractors are going to be very useful in our agriculture. So we have opened some centres where these tractors are being put on demonstration.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The East Asiatic Company will go into production very soon, and the UK Landmaster will be produced there. We are at present considering the Japanese small tractor, and we will have that also manufactured here.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Has the Minister had tractor in mind? I mentioned about the 8 to 10 ton range.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Yes, Sir. We shall do that.

### Sethusamudram Project

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\*784. { **Shri Muthiah:**  
**Shri Ramanathan**  
**Chettiar:**

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

(a) whether the Naval Hydrographic Office at Dehra Dun has recently completed a major survey of the gulf of Mannar and the Palk Straits for the construction of the Sethusamudram Project;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the survey; and

(c) when the Sethusamudram project will be constructed?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c). In order to arrive at a reliable estimate of the cost of the project, it was considered necessary to carry out certain land and sea surveys and investigations in the project area. A provision of Rs. 22.14 lakhs has accordingly been made for this purpose in the Third Five Year Plan. This work included a hydrographic survey of the sea approaches to the proposed canal. The work was entrusted to the Naval Hydrography Branch of the Ministry of Defence, who have completed it in the last survey season. The Government of Madras who are preparing the fresh estimate of costs has intimated that the findings and charts in respect of this survey are awaited by them and that further necessary action would be taken by them on receipt.

The question of taking up the Sethusamudram Project will be considered, when the correct cost of the project is known.

**Shri Muthiah:** I want to know the depth of the water in the sea, and the nature of the soil at the bottom, whether it is sandy or rocky.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly give the results of the survey as done by the experts.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** May I know whether, in view of the national importance of this project, investigations are being made for a by-pass channel on the land also?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not think any investigations for a by-pass channel on the land are being made. I am not aware of it.

#### Siltation of Calcutta Port

\*785. **Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to establish a Hydraulic Study Department to go into the problems of siltation of Calcutta Port?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1088/63].

**Shri R. Barua:** May I know whether it is contemplated to develop Haldia port, and if so, how much money is earmarked for it?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Money earmarked in the Third Plan is about Rs. 7 crores and steps are being taken to finalise the arrangements to proceed with the project.

**Shri R. Barua:** How long will it take to bring it to working condition?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly make a forecast of the time, but certain studies are being made.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know how far the final scheme about Haldia Port is likely to be affected by the outcome of these hydraulic studies at Haldia?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That will entirely depend upon the nature and character of the results that would be given to us by this study, and unless and until that is known, it is very difficult for me to forecast or anticipate what the results would be, but I hope that from the studies that have already been made not any serious dislocation can be feared.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether simultaneously the Model Research Station at Poona will carry on some experiments which will be available to these hydraulic experts?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think the two have to work in close liaison. We cannot exclude the one by the other, and the two will go together.

**Dr. K. L. Rao:** May I know whether Indian experts in hydraulics have been associated as consultants with this team?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, Sir. There is one Deputy Chief Hydraulic Engineer and one Assistant Hydraulic Engineer. These two are for hydraulic purposes. There is also one River Research Officer who is responsible for survey and field observation. The Hydraulic Engineers are for the study of the details.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** Form the statement I find that some naval vessels were hired for carrying on the survey work in Hooghly. What is the result of that survey, and what action has been taken by the Government as a result of the recommendations made by this survey?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** A very thorough hydraulic study was recommended by the World Bank team which visited us some time back. The appointment of this particular section is a result thereof. This new section that has been created has also advised us that we must have a full-fledged vessel known as a research vessel, equipped with the latest mode of equipment to make the studies efficient. Pending that, we have acquired certain other vessels with certain improvised equipment and apparatus with which this section has already started the study.

#### Agricultural Programmes

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\*786. { **Shri P. Venkatasubbiah:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had approved a scheme to