

Mr. Speaker: What were the results achieved? Were many fish caught? That is what she wants to know.

The fish have escaped. Now she can ask her next question.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: He was trying to reply.

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing. She can ask her next question.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether Government is aware that many of the States do not have sufficient amount of fish breeders and fish-catching nets and if the answer is in the affirmative, what action Government is taking to provide all those equipment to the various States which are lagging behind in fulfilling the targets?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): Mainly the lag has been in the provision of mechanized boats. As against 4,000 fixed for the Third Plan, we will be reaching only 1,50. It is mainly because we could not import the diesel engines and other equipment required for want of foreign exchange.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: My question was about fish breeders. He has said only about mechanized boats.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Boats and nets.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether it is true that the production of fish is not satisfactory because too many people are allowed to fish in troubled waters?

Mr. Speaker: Next Question. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad.

Foreign Exchange for Haldia Port

+

*686. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri Hem Barua:

Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:

Shri Karni Singhji:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to explore alternative source of foreign exchange assistance for the Haldia Port other than for World Bank; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No, Sir. Negotiations with the World Bank for a loan are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there is any difficulty in the negotiations and if there is no difficulty, may I know what is the position and whether Government have succeeded in getting the grant from the World Bank?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The first proposal mooted with the World Bank was in 1961 and then, after certain preliminary examinations and investigations, the first formal loan application was made in the year 1963. In 1964 the World Bank sent a series of questions for answers and we supplied all the information that was needed. In November, 1965, an appraisal team was sent by the World Bank and detailed discussions have taken place here in Delhi and in Calcutta. The team has gone back and they are now preparing their report for submission to the World Bank. The position is at this stage at the moment.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The reason for putting my question is this. Since 1961 upto 1966, it has been only in the process of investigation. We want to know whether the Government have also tried to find out an alternative source of getting foreign exchange or they are relying solely on the World Bank and whether any indication has been given by the World Bank that they would try to assure the entire amount needed by us.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The World Bank is very much interested in this particular project and have evinced interest; not only that, they have

already financed the development of Calcutta Port by giving two loans and have given another loan for the development of Madras Port. As such the World Bank is interested in developing the port capacity in this country. Now the matter is under discussion. They have very recently evinced interest by sending their appraisal team; that is to say, they are now taking up the question seriously and we are now to hear from them very soon their conclusions on the various examinations, investigations and discussions.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : चूंकि पांच साल इस बात को हो गये हैं और अभी तक हल्दिया पोर्ट की डिवेलपमेंट के सम्बन्ध में कोई संतोषजनक नतीजा नहीं निकला है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है ताकि यह प्राजेक्ट शीघ्र ही सम्पन्न हो जाये ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: May I correct the hon. Member? It is not five years yet. The formal application was made in 1963, and it is now early 1966.

Shri S. C. Samanta: While the appraisal team was having discussions with the Ministry here, it appeared in the newspapers that they were putting forward some strong conditions. If that is true, may I know what those conditions are?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: They are examining the question from various aspects, in relation to the foreign exchange availability and also in relation to the availability of indigenous components and requirements for the purpose of the port development. They are examining it from all aspects.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Is it a fact that a team of experts from Japan visited the Haldia port in 1965, and if so, what was the object of their visit?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: That visit was purely out of academic interest.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is the total shortfall in port capacity at present, and what is the capacity to be created at the Haldia port?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: At the moment, at Haldia we are not handling any appreciable cargo, because there are no facilities as such, but the proposal is to handle as much as 8 million tonnes of cargo when it is fully developed into a major port.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the decision to give financial assistance by the World Bank is more or less determined by the political winds in the U.S. Government circles, and since the political winds in the U.S. Government circles after the Indo-Pakistan conflict are not very favourable to us, may I know whether Government apprehend any decision by the World Bank that might go counter to our aspirations, and if so, whether Government have tried to evaluate the possibility of harnessing other channels of financial assistance?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: These negotiations have reached almost the final stage now, and we would very much like to wait and know the final outcome; if world Bank assistance is not forthcoming, then as the Government are very much interested in developing this particular port alternative proposals will have to be investigated and pursued.

Requirements of Sugar for Domestic Consumption

*687. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement of sugar for domestic consumption during the current year and the extent to which the domestic requirements will be met; and

(b) the target of sugar export during the current year and what