

change requirement for the Haldia Port Project; and

(b) if so, the total requirement and how it is proposed to be met?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total foreign exchange requirement of the Haldia Project, made by the Calcutta Port Commissioners, is estimated at Rs. 4.4 crores (pre-devaluation) i.e., Rs. 7 crores (post-devaluation). The question of meeting these requirements is under examination.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** From the statement I find the foreign exchange is estimated to be Rs. 7 crores. May I know the total estimated cost of the entire project?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The cost of the entire project under the revised scheme is about Rs. 40 crores of which the foreign exchange element would be somewhere near Rs. 7 crores.

**Shri Maheswar Naik:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Union Government has already asked the Calcutta Port Commission to go ahead with the programme for the Haldia project in view of the fact that there is delay with delay in the landing of ships in Calcutta Port?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Some preliminary works have already been undertaken. The Port Commissioners have been asked to process some tender applications.

**श्री इन्द्रम चन्द कल्लुवाय :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह 4 करोड़ 4 लाख रु० लगाने की जो योजना है, जो कि अब 7 करोड़ की हो गई है, यह सरकार कहां से पूरा करेगी, इसके बारे में आपने विवरण में नहीं दिया है,

यह खर्चा कहां से लेकर लगाया जायगा और यदि नहीं मिला तो क्या यह योजना प्रवृत्ती रहेगी ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The foreign exchange element is sought to be met through sundry credits or from rupee payment sources.

**श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय :** माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उस में लिखा है कि "The question of meeting these requirements is under examination." मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस योजना के निर्णय कब तक हो जायगा ?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** It has already been taken up actively. It came before the Cabinet a few days ago and the Cabinet has approved the scheme. Final approval has already been given.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** With the present progress, as it is discernible today, may I know by what time the Government would be in a position to get this port come into operation?

**Shri Sanjiva Reddy:** I think it will take about three or four years after we start the work.

#### Sethusamudram Project

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\*344. **Dr. M. M. Das:**

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:**

**Shri S. C. Samanta:**

**Shri Subodh Hansda:**

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**

**Dr. P. Srinivasan:**

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**

**Shri D. D. Puri:**

**Shri Muthiah:**

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

(a) the amount spent by the Government of Madras for the Sethusamudram Project and reimbursed later by the Central Government;

(b) whether it is proposed to appoint foreign consultants for investigations and preparation of a project report;

(c) whether any rough estimate has been made about the expenditure for the project, if so, the amount thereof, and

(d) the progress made so far in the implementation of the project and when it is likely to be completed?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport, Aviation (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The Government of Madras incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 11.5 lakhs during 1965-66 in connection with preliminary investigations preparatory to the preparation of an estimate for the Sethusamudram Project. This amount was reimbursed to the State Government at the end of the year. During the current financial year, the State Government have incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 5.85 lakhs on this work upto September, 1968. The amount spent till the end of the current financial year will also be reimbursed to the State Government.

(b) Preliminary investigations relating to the Project are being carried out at present without the help of foreign consultants. There is no proposal to have foreign consultants for the preparation of the Project Report.

(c) According to preliminary estimates the estimated cost of the Project is expected to be approximately of the order of Rs. 35-40 crores.

(d) Preliminary investigations are expected to be completed by the end of 1967. It is a little too soon to say when the project will be completed.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether any enquiry has been made as to the number of ships that will pass through this when the project is

completed and whether the realisation of fees from them will be commensurate with the expenditure that is going to be incurred?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The first stage of investigations is related to the technical aspect of the question like survey of the channel, survey of the area as a whole, etc., and these investigations have proceeded to some extent. The other economic survey has not yet been taken in hand.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the Atomic Energy Commission has been asked to carry out certain investigations with regard to the deposition of silts in the project area, whether that project has been completed by the Atomic Energy Commission and what has been the expenditure incurred by the Atomic Energy Commission in that regard?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The survey work was not referred to the Atomic Energy Commission. There are what are called "Isotopes". That has been done. That is quite different from the Atomic Energy Commission themselves taking up the investigation.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The statement says that there is no proposal to have foreign consultants for the preparation of the project report. I would like to know whether foreign experts will be invited afterwards to complete the work?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** That depends upon the finalisation of the project report. Once that is done, then the necessity to engage foreign consultants or foreign collaboration would be examined.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** I find from the statement that some expenditure was incurred by the State Government and that the same has been reimbursed to the State Government. I would like to know whether in this

project there will be any contribution from the State Government?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Not so far as the investigation part of the expenditure is concerned.

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** जो वक्तव्य मदन में रखा गया है उसमें बतलाया गया है कि उस प्रोजेक्ट पर कोई 35-40 करोड़ रुपया खर्च होने का अनुमान है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन 35-40 करोड़ रुपये में कौन कौन से काम इस प्रोजेक्ट के संबंध में किये जायेंगे और इससे उस के पूरा होने पर क्या लाभ हम को होंगे ? साथ ही साथ जो 11.5 लाख पया राज्य सरकार ने पिछले वर्ष में और 5.65 लाख रुपया इस साल सितम्बर तक खर्च किया है उसमें अभी तक क्या काम हुआ है ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** These Rs. 11.5 lakhs and the subsequent Rs. 5.65 lakhs have been spent for the investigation work. Work is going on continuously. It has not been completed. A preliminary report has come. In that the estimated project cost is shown as likely to be about Rs. 35 crores to Rs. 40 crores. That is not the final thing. When the project report is finally drawn up the other facts would be found out more precisely.

**श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि कौन कौन से काम सम्पन्न हो जायेंगे इसका उत्तर बिल्कुल नहीं आया ?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** The whole expenditure was on different types of investigations like borings, testing of sand bars, etc. It is very difficult to give now how much was spent on each item. The total amount spent till now by the State Government on the investigation portion of it has been given.

**श्री बड़े :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसमें लिखा है कि 35-40 करोड़ रुपया अनुमान इस

सेतुसमूद्र परियोजना पर खर्च होगा ता मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह 35-40 करोड़ रुपया जो खर्च होने वाला है तो उसमें मद्रास राज्य सरकार ने 11.5 लाख रुपया पिछले साल खर्च किया है जबकि इस साल केवल 5.65 लाख रुपया ही खर्च किया है और जैसा कि उनकी रिपोर्ट्स से जाहिर होता है कि सैटर ने उन्हें काफी पैसा नहीं दिया है तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि केन्द्र द्वारा उनकी समुचित रकम दी जायेगी ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** The Planning Commission have set apart about Rs. 22.14 lakhs or so in the Third Plan for this investigation and we have spent some portion of it. For the remaining part of the investigation work some more funds would be made available. The team that is engaged for the investigation work is continuing its work still.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रोजेक्ट के परेलल कोई और प्रोजेक्ट भी संसार में कहीं है और उस का क्या अनुभव आप को है ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Well, I am not aware of that.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** Has the Government directed investigation from this angle also that by the completion of the Asian Highway, the connecting link between Colombo and Delhi would require over-bridge over this project?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** That does not arise out of this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** Sir, the Minister says that it does not arise. But what is your view?

**Mr. Speaker:** If it does arise, the Minister is not ready with the answer.