

Government to take up other bridges. For this Bridge, the estimated cost is Rs. 2.21 lakhs.

Shri Kunhan: May I know whether the Government has any proposal to include the Neendakara bridge in the Third Plan?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes. That would be included in the Third Plan list.

Shipping in Hooghly

*1040. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government have urged Central Government to bear the expenses for improvement of shipping conditions in the Hooghly river; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestion is being examined.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वेस्ट बंगाल की सरकार ने किन किन खास बातों की डिमान्ड मेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से की थी जिन के करने से कि हुगली की हालत अच्छी हो जायेगी ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह बहुत बड़ा उत्तर होगा । बात यह है कि उन के जितने सुझाव आये हैं उन की जांच की जा रही है और जांच करने के बाद शायद कुछ बतलाया जा सके ।

Shri Prabhat Kar: There are so many important aspects.

Mr. Speaker: The question who will bear the expenses is the most material thing—the Central Government should bear.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Not only the question of bearing expenses.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In this connection I would like to know whether the Government is considering that the Hooghly river should be treated from the point of view of national economic importance as a national highway because it is a sea-way along which 2 million tons of coal and several million tons of other cargo have to move.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The question of treating any waterway as a national waterway depends on the declaration of that waterway as such, provided further that the waterway passes through more than one State. Waterways generally are in the State list. A decision has not been taken to treat the Hooghly as a national waterway. It will require consultation with the State Government. I do not know what the reaction of the State Government will be.

Shri Prabhat Kar: So far as difficulty in shipping is concerned, it is a long standing grievance and things are worsening every day. How long will it take for the Central Government to decide exactly what steps have to be taken to expedite implementation of the scheme?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not intend to minimise the importance of the Hooghly river not only for the economy of West Bengal but for the economy of a large area of hinterland. A proposal has recently been received. It will be examined from that aspect. It is not only of West Bengal importance, but it is of importance more than to West Bengal.

Erosion by River Hooghly

+
*1042. { **Dr. Saradish Roy:**
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that serious erosion of the banks of the River Hooghly near Calcutta is