

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

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*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

endangering the safety of the industrial suburbs and its inhabitants;

(b) whether there is any scheme for checking such erosions;

(c) if so, its details; and

(d) whether the West Bengal Government have approached Central Government for financial assistance for construction of protective embankments or other anti-erosion measures?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) No report of serious erosion of the banks of the River Hooghly near Calcutta has been received from the State Government. There are, however, cases of erosion at some places.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement containing the details of the schemes is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 16].

(d) Yes, Sir.

Dr. Saradish Roy: From the statement it is found that most of the schemes are under scrutiny or examination. When are these schemes likely to be finalised?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: There are a number of schemes. The number is about 27 or so. Some of them have been taken up. The rest will be taken up in the Third Plan and even later. In the Third Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 17.87 lakhs has been made.

Dr. Saradish Roy: May I know whether this money is contributed by the Central Government or shared by the Central Government and the West Bengal Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): These moneys are advanced as loans to the State Government on certain terms.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: It was stated that no serious case of erosion had come to light. May I know whether

Government have paid particular attention to the Grand Trunk Road which runs parallel to the river on the western bank of it for several miles, within a few yards of the river bank because the slightest erosion may put the whole Grand Trunk Road into danger?

Shri Alagesan: That may be so. We have not got any detailed information from the State Government, but it is for the State Government to take up this question, and prepare proper estimates, and when the cost of these projects is less than Rs. 1 crore, they can themselves go ahead with them, and we have made enough financial provision for the same.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether in the report of the Jha Commission of Enquiry on Chandernagore it was suggested that the Central Government should immediately take steps to stop erosion in Chandernagore? May I also know whether in spite of the request of the Chandernagore Corporation nothing has been done up till now by the Central Government?

Shri Alagesan: I have said that it is for the State Government to take up these questions first.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I have referred to the Jha Commission's report where it has been stated that it is the function of the Central Government.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that the State Government should take it up and send it on to the Central Government, and then it can be taken up.

Shri Prabhat Kar: At the time of the Chandernagore Merger Bill, it was stated in the Lok Sabha that it was the function or the responsibility of the Central Government to implement all those recommendations. So, the hon. Minister should refer to that and not say that it is for the State Government.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Since erosion separate notice of that.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Since erosion is taking place in almost all the rivers

in the country, are Government contemplating training up rivers as has been successfully done elsewhere in the world, in order to stop erosion?

Mr. Speaker: That is too wide a question. The whole question of erosion cannot be taken up in this particular question.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: My submission is that the training of rivers can be the right reply to this. I want to know whether Government have considered this question of training up of the rivers?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह जो इरोजन हो रहा है यह कितनी लम्बाई में हो रहा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो उन्होंने कह दिया कि कहीं कहीं है। बहुत मेजर नहीं है

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that there are sand bars in the Hooghly, and Hooghly pilotage is one of the most difficult in the world, may I know what Government have done in this regard, and whether Government have taken any steps to improve the situation?

Mr. Speaker: That question has been answered already, I think.

Shri Alagesan: During the First Five Year Plan, a loan of Rs. 160 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government. During the second Plan, a larger amount has been given. During the Third Plan also, the State Government propose to undertake five anti-erosion schemes.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I find from the statement that item No. 11 is estimated to cost about Rs. 4,80,700. May I know whether Government are aware that many of the houses have gone to the bed of the river, and the main road from Chandernagore to Chinsura had to be diverted because of the erosion? The hon. Minister says that no serious erosion has taken place. But may I know whether Government are aware of this?

Mr. Speaker: Could not this question be put to the State Government that they should take it up very seriously?

Japanese Assistance for Agricultural Farm

*1043, **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Agricultural farm was established with assistance of the Japanese Government at Saharanpur;

(b) if so, the nature of assistance received; and

(c) the extent of success of the farm?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No. However, four Japanese farmers took up cultivation in 1959 on a 3 acre piece of land taken by them on lease from a private cultivator in village Sarena, Saharanpur district.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As against only one crop of paddy normally raised by the local cultivators in a year, the Japanese farmers were able to raise two crops of paddy and one crop of wheat in a year on the land where no paddy crop had been cultivated earlier. By adoption of modern cultivation techniques and proper soil and water management, they obtained during the year 1960-61 as much as 51.9 maunds of paddy per acre with a net profit of Rs. 410 per acre in the first season and 49.5 maunds of paddy per acre in the second season with a net profit of Rs. 667.50 per acre. The average yield obtained by local farmers, however, was only 20 maunds per acre.