

arrived than the capacity of the port permits us to handle. But the rate of unloading has definitely increased, as I have pointed out. About the suggestion for a mechanical coal loading plant, I cannot say anything at the moment whether it is required at Bombay port.

Shri Hem Barua: They instituted one at Calcutta port.

12 hrs.

Short Notice Question and Answer
Oman's request for help

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S.N.Q. { **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
No. 14 { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
 { **Shri Mahanty:**
 { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
 { **Shrimati Eenu Chakravartty:**
 { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request by or on behalf of the people of Oman, for help against the interference in Oman's internal affairs by British armed forces;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this matter;

(c) whether Government are aware that British bombers are bombarding the people of Oman; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to protest against this?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) We have received indirectly a message purporting to come from some representatives of the Imam of Oman.

(b) The Government of India have viewed with concern the news of the military action which has taken place in Oman. They have expressed to the United Kingdom Government their concern and conveyed to them public feelings in India in regard to this action.

(c) and (d). We have no news about the situation in Oman except through the newspapers.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that this dispute is to go before the Security Council next Tuesday, has the Government decided about any steps to be taken in this regard?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India is not represented on the Security Council.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that Britain is not going to allow this matter to be brought before the United Nations, may I know what steps our Government is going to take for appropriate action?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is perhaps referring to the Security Council; it is before the Security Council that the question has to come up. The Government of India can take no step in the Security Council. It is for the President and members of the Security Council to take necessary steps. So far as I know—I speak only from information given in the newspapers—the matter has been put on the agenda of the Security Council.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if we are taking any steps to get in touch with the members of the United Nations who belong to the Afro-Asian bloc so that we can move together the United Nations in regard to this matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; we have taken no such step. So far as I know—again I rely on the newspapers—members of the Arab League have taken some steps—not about the Security Council matter. That is all I know. None of the members of the Arab League had approached us on this question.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not the declared policy of the Government of India to sympathise with all the legitimate and just demands of Arabs wherever they predominate in the North of Africa?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon Member's geography is not very strong. The answer to that question can only be 'yes'. May I, however, say this? I have said that we have expressed our concern about military action there. But, the legal and constitutional position there, in regard to Muscat and Oman, is somewhat complicated and I do not think I am in a position even to define it exactly although I have taken some trouble to read old papers about it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if we have any consular or other representative in the area of Oman and Muscat and if so, whether we have got any direct information from that source on what is happening?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. We have no one in Oman. I am not at the moment quite clear whether we have anyone in Muscat. But, we have no information from there.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if there is any information from our High Commissioner's office in London or from the Arab League or from our ambassador at Cairo?

Mr. Speaker: The hon Prime Minister has said that all the information he has is from the newspapers. Shall we go on asking whether he has received any report from Cairo or America or Canada?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Foodgrains in Railway Godowns

*936. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that some merchants of Bhagalpur (Bihar) are not taking delivery of large quantities of foodgrains from the Railway godown at Bhagalpur Station and have created scarcity condition in the Bhagalpur market; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to combat this tendency?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.
(b) Does not arise.

Inland Fishery Research

*939. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Sanganna:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta, deals with fish and fisheries of the Ganga and the Mahanadi basins;

(b) if so, whether research on edible fish of ponds, lakes and reservoirs, in the Gangetic delta areas, has so far been neglected;

(c) whether there is any proposal to take up the matter in the near future; and

(d) if so, whether problems of water pollution and their effect on fish will also be studied?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The study on water pollution problems has already been initiated.

Central India Rivers Commission (Floods)

*942. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central India Rivers Commission (Floods) met at Mysore on the 24th July, 1957 to discuss flood protection schemes in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay; and

(b) if so, whether the Mahanadi River System in Orissa was one of them?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Esthal): (a) Yes, Sir.