

(LOK SABHA DEBATES)

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, 17th August, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sethu Samudaram Project

*932. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 31 on the 15th May, 1957 and state:

(a) the progress made upto the end of July, 1957 with regard to hydrographic survey of Sethu Samudaram project; and

(b) when it is likely to be concluded?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Triangulation of a part of the area involved was carried out in the 1956-57 survey season. The survey work will take two more survey seasons to complete.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In the second Five Year Plan, it was stated that some amount had been allocated for investigation of this scheme. May I know what is the total amount for the investigation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For the investigations, I think, some allotment should have been made according to the needs of the moment. I believe the progress of work is not limited by that consideration.

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Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It was stated that an accurate estimate about the capital cost of this project was under examination. May I know if that has been estimated now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is for that purpose that these surveys have been undertaken. The Development Adviser and the Director General of Shipping,—both have been engaged on that work, the first in regard to the general survey of draft etc. and the second in regard to the traffic surveys.

Shri Tangamani: For the year 1957-58, we have voted Rs 5 lakhs for the preliminary investigation regarding this Sethu Samudram Scheme Project. May we know what is the kind of work which is being taken up for this year?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Two things have to be investigated: firstly, how much of dredging will be required in the course of the execution of the project. As far as possible, an accurate estimate of that will have to be made. The second part is, traffic survey, that is, how many ships will pass through normally every year. These are the two types of survey that have been taken up.

Shri C. R. Pattabhiraman: Will there be any reduction in the allotment made for the Sethu Samudram Project on account of the new conditions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Whatever allotments are to be made for the project itself, they will come up after the project estimates have been made, and then we would take a decision about it.

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Government of Ceylon are putting any obstacles in regard to the scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think, Sir

Shri V P Nayar: I want to know from what length of the shore will the depths down the various points in the sea be deepened by triangulation for this project

Shri Raj Bahadur: As has been said, the survey is taking place with a view to connect the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar, and the survey is taking place around Pamban and Mandapam

Shri V P. Nayar: I wanted to know the shore length—the mileage

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not able to give the mileage

Distribution of Foodgrains through Co-operative Stores

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*933. **Dr Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether any new scheme has been formulated to organise Co-operative Stores for distribution of foodgrains in important towns of India, and

(b) if so, the nature and important features of such a scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b) The matter is under correspondence with some of the State Governments

Dr Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether there is any uniform system of distributing foodgrains in all the cities of India?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Out of the 29,413 fair price shops that we have got for the distribution of foodgrains, as many as 4,524 are institutional agencies. A major part of these agencies are co-operative societies

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Recently, the hon Minister visited Patna. May I know whether the system of distribution of foodgrains there is working

properly and whether there is any complaint about it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Some co-operative societies are also working in Patna. They are working rather satisfactorily, but the private fair price shops are not working very satisfactorily

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether any of the State Governments have agreed to the suggestion of opening co-operative societies for distribution of grains and whether the Centre has agreed to this request of some of the States and, if so, how many States have started the scheme?

Shri A. M. Thomas: A proposal was made by the National Co-operative Development Warehousing Board at its meeting held on 1st June, 1957, to have co-operative agencies in the cities of Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi for distribution of imported foodgrains. Detailed schemes have been called for from the State Governments of West Bengal and Bombay

Dr K. B. Menon: May I know, apart from the co-operative societies, whether the Government have any experience of the distribution of foodgrains through Panchayats in any of the States?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, out of the 4,000 odd institutional agencies mentioned by me, many of them are Panchayats

Shri Ranga: May I know whether this scheme contemplates giving monopoly power to the co-operative stores to distribute the foodgrains or, are these stores only to function side by side with private food stores so that there might be some competition and better distributional efficiency?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no such proposal to give monopoly sale to the co-operative agencies, but all the same, we are giving preference to co-operative societies.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know how far it is a fact that the hon. Minister, while he was in Patna, is reported to have said that if co-operative stores are to be the richest or biggest pur-