

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know for what purpose these automatic speech recorders are installed in the various airports and what use they are put to?

Shri Humayun Kabir: These automatic speech recorders help in keeping an account of how the aircrafts move. They have log books and record every movement of the aircrafts as they come into the airport; because the communication takes place by radio-telephone, it is almost impossible to write them out. These automatic speech recorders are very useful from that point of view and if at any time unfortunately any accident should occur, these automatic speech recorders ensure that responsibility can be fixed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are under the impression that public men are using these recorders!

Shri Yajnik: May I know the total cost that is involved in installing these?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is given in the statement, but probably the hon. Member has not seen the statement. For the seven recorders it was Rs. 4,25,000.

Inland Water Transport

*1054. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by Government for the development of inland water transport in Orissa; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent on this scheme during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (**Shri Humayun Kabir**): (a) The Central Water and Power Commission conducted certain navigational surveys on the Mahanadi before the completion of the Hirakud Dam. A French Mission which visited India in 1950-51 also made certain recommendations for the development of navigation on

this river. Further investigations were discontinued pending the completion of the Hirakud Dam.

(b) There is no provision in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of inland water transport in Orissa.

Shri Supakar: So far as the water transport in the Mahanadi is concerned, may I know if it has been put in cold storage for an indefinite period?

Shri Humayun Kabir: No, Sir. It has not been put in cold storage for any indefinite period. No proposals were received from the State Government, and generally for inland water transport within a State, the initiative comes from the State Government.

Shri Supakar: May I know if any steps are being taken to develop inland water transport in the other important rivers of the State, the Brahmani and the Vaitarani?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As far as I am aware, the two important rivers in Orissa are the Brahmani and the Mahanadi. So far as the Brahmani is concerned, we are advised that excepting near the sea it will not be navigable. So far as the Mahanadi is concerned, the Central Water and Power Commission have prepared a scheme by which at first navigation can be undertaken up to Dholpur and later on probably up to Hirakud itself.

Shri T. N. Singh: As in the Hirakud project itself certain expenses were incurred for purposes of inland navigational development, is it really the position that so far as the initiative in this matter goes, it is the responsibility of the State and not of the Centre, and may I know whether any further steps are being taken in the light of this fact?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Inland water transport is a State responsibility unless a particular waterway is declared as a national waterway. So far no waterways have been declared as national waterways. Investigations were begun at the time of the starting

of the Hirakud Dam, but on the advice of the Planning Commission they were suspended. Now the Estimates Committee have recommended that this may be resumed, and we are examining it.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I take it that the Centre launched upon this expenditure in Hirakud without taking the State into confidence and getting their approval?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is not a question of getting the approval of the State Government for launching into this project. Certain facilities are being provided and whenever the necessary traffic offers, the necessary provision will also be made, but at this stage investigations are being carried on with regard to the Mahanadi river.

Shri T. N. Singh: The Minister is here. He can enlighten us on this point.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow a general discussion on this point. The hon. Member may call for a half-hour discussion if he is interested. How many questions am I to allow?

Shri Yajnik: May I know what steps are being taken for mechanising countrycraft and small boats in this river or any other river in India.

Shri Humayun Kabir: There are proposals to that effect, and in fact, at present we are carrying on experiments with certain kinds of flat-bottomed crafts to see whether the push-type boat or the tow-type boat will be more suitable.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Even after the completion of the Hirakud Project, may I know whether these investigations that have been conducted will again be referred to the Gokhale Committee or steps will be taken for inland transport?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Gokhale Committee is in possession of all the materials. As a layman if I may venture an opinion, I would say that till

the Hirakud dam was completed it was not possible to undertake some of the investigations because formerly the discharge was something like 1,000 to 3,000 cusecs in the Mahanadi and after the dam is completed it will be over 8,000 cusecs. That will certainly change the character of the river.

Shri Supakar: Inasmuch as navigation forms one of the purposes of all multi-purpose projects, may I know since when the initiative for launching any inland water transport scheme has been shifted to the State Government instead of its being the sole responsibility of the Centre?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This is in the Constitution, and not anything which has been done by accepting any multi-purpose project.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: This particular scheme is a part of the master plan for the development of inland waterways. May I know how far the master plan has progressed and what shape it is likely to take in the next five years?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As far as I can judge at this stage, we will be able to complete the investigations and probably begin work on the Buckingham Canal, and some work will be done on the Ganga-Brahmaputra waterways system also. Beyond that, with the funds which are available to us, I doubt very much if any other scheme can be taken up during the Second Plan.

Community Development and N.E.S. Blocks in Bombay

*1956. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state

(a) the number of National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks opened in Bombay State during the First Five Year Plan; and