

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: Most of the unused capacity of sugar factories is to be found in North India, because North India is not so very suited for sugar industry. Several expert committees have recommended for the migration of sugar industry to South India. If it is so, may I know what steps the Government has taken in this direction?

Dr. F. S. Deshmukh: Some of the factories are situated in South India also. Moreover, it would be realised by the House that the amount of capacity unused is very small now-a-days. It used to be far greater sometime back, but since there is improvement in sugarcane production a number of factories have found it economical to work and the capacity lying idle is only about 30,000 tons in a whole year.

Shri A. P. Jain: It is only 3,000 tons.

Shri Dasappa: In view of the fact that out of the many unused factories, which have been named here, six are unused for the last five or eight years due to disputes between partners and so on, will the Government be pleased to consider the evolving of some formula or procedure by which they can take hold of these factories, and either put them to good use at the places where they are at present, or transfer them to places where they are needed more?

Shri A. P. Jain: In fact, the hon Member seems to forget that they are privately owned factories. Most of them are uneconomic and they need expansion. Expansion has been allowed but money has to be found by the owners of these factories. In some cases they are under litigation or some other trouble. For instance, one was under the custody of the Custodian of Evacuee Properties because some of the owners migrated to Pakistan and the factory was not working. We have done everything that can possibly be done, but so long as private ownership exists we cannot compel them to use these sugar factories.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government proposed to pass a legislation by which they can take over the factories which are not being used due to disputes, or are uneconomic for the size of the plants, so that there will not be any national loss?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Government has no idea of taking over sugarcane factories which are running under a loss.

Shri Tangamani: Of the six factories which are lying idle, Murugappa Sugar Company is one with a crushing capacity of 100 tons a day. May I know whether steps will be taken for the early re-opening of this factory instead of asking the owners to apply to the State Finance Corporation?

Shri A. P. Jain: After all, there are certain organisations through which finances can be provided. So far as this particular factory is concerned, it tried to expand its capacity to 400 tons but could not complete the project because of financial difficulties. It is for the factory to find the money, and the hon Member should not forget the fact that, while the total amount of sugar produced is 20 lakh tons the capacity lying idle is only 3,000 tons.

Minor Ports in Andhra

*289. **Shri M. V. Krishnarao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of minor ports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposal and the decision taken thereon; and

(c) the names of ports?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c) The development of minor ports is primarily the responsibility of the State

Governments. The Central Government gives financial assistance for the execution of schemes included in the Five Year Plans. The Minor ports in Andhra Pradesh proposed to be developed in the Second Plan period are Kakinada, Musulipatnam, Khaderu, Narasipur, Sheemunipatnam, Calingapatnam and Baruva. The works comprise facilities for the landing, handling and storage of cargo, navigational aids etc.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what has happened to the investigations carried on at Kakinada to convert that into a major port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would require separate notice to answer that question.

Shri M. V. Krishnarao: A dredger was placed at Masulipatnam Port six months ago. It has not yet been assembled. May I know the reasons for the delay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A dredger is meant to desilt a port if silt has accumulated there. I think the operations must be going on, in any case I will look into it further and inform the Member. I do not know exactly about the dredger operations in that particular area.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The hon Member wants to know the reasons for delay.

Mr. Speaker. The hon Minister is not in a position to give them, he said he will make further enquiries.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The responsibility of operation of dredger was that of the State Government. Minor ports are looked after by the State Governments. I hope they will look into that matter, and they should.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Money is to be given by the Centre.

Mr. Speaker: May be so, but they have no jurisdiction over minor ports.

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the congestion in the major ports, will Government consider the question of developing minor ports in Andhra Pradesh and other South Indian ports?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question of aiding the development of minor ports in principle has already been accepted and, as the hon Member might be aware, there is provision of Rs 536 50 lakhs in our Second Plan for assistance to the State Governments concerned in this work.

Shri T. B. Vital Rao: Under the Second Plan it is stated that the Central Government will give some loans to the State Governments for development of these minor ports. May I know whether any amount has since been granted to Andhra Pradesh and, if so, what is that amount?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir; it has been accepted and loans have been given. Out of an allotment of Rs 486 lakhs which was made in respect of Andhra Pradesh, the demand made to us was to the tune of Rs 200 lakhs and that has been given.

Dr. K. B. Menon: The hon Minister said that it is the responsibility of the State to look after the minor ports. If there are large-scale sea erosions in minor ports will the Centre undertake the responsibility of helping the State?

Mr. Speaker: A change in their policy.

Dr. K. B. Menon: In minor ports like Beypur and Tellicherry there are large-scale sea erosions. Will the Centre help the State Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Responsibilities in this behalf have been determined by the provisions of the Constitution. Ports other than major ports fall within the Concurrent List and in proper cases, if such occasions arise, the matter may be considered.