

Pradip Port

*180. { Shri Sanganna:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 940 on the 17th August, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed their examination of the proposals received from the Orissa Government regarding the development of Pradip Port; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). The examination of the proposals revealed that before Pradip could start functioning as a minor port as suggested by the Orissa Government, safe passage should be ensured for lighters carrying cargo between ship and shore to cross the bar at the mouth of the river. The State Government were, therefore, requested to arrange for trial runs with lighters from the shore to the proposed anchorage point and back. The result of the trials is awaited.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the Government are aware that the Government of Orissa have started the export of iron ore from 1st November to foreign countries and, if so, will the Government help the Orissa Government with funds and expedite the final decision so that the project of the Orissa Government may be successful?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I have said just now, we have asked them to make certain surveys and not only a few days ago, a letter has been received from the Orissa Government that it is necessary to measure the depth of water over the bar and to mark out the deep channels with anchorage and buoys before any trial can be made

with lighters. In view of this information from the Orissa Government, I do not see how any ore can be exported just now.

Shri Sanganna: It has been expected that a British expert was to inspect it and make a visit to that place for a study of the port. It is my information that the British Mission has not made the visit to that area. May I know the reason for their not going over there?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I am not aware if the British Mission visited Pradip. I ask for notice of that question. But this we know, namely, that the survey was made by a Japanese team and the work on measuring the depth has been completed by the Orissa Government. In view of that, it was probably thought that it was not necessary for the British team to visit Pradip.

Shri Panigrahi: With a view to promote export trade and earn more foreign exchange, the Government of Orissa have already started despatching 50,000 tons of iron ore from Cuttack to Pradip and arrangements have been made by the Government of Orissa. They have requested this Government to supply initial facilities for export. Is that being arranged now and are facilities given to the Government of Orissa?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I can only repeat, what I have said. Certain facilities have been given during the first Plan period. A loan of Rs. 7.3 lakhs was given to the Orissa Government, and they have been asked to carry out these surveys. As soon as the surveys are carried out, then only we can decide how far it will be useful. The aim is to have a port which will handle about 50,000 tons of ore before the end of the second Five Year Plan.

Shri Panigrahi: What will be the estimated annual foreign exchange earnings to this port by exporting the iron ore?

Shri Humayun Kabir: How can anybody give the figures before the survey has been completed? As I said, the Orissa Government have stated only two or three days ago that no lighters can go till the waterdepth has been measured and the buoys have been placed. The depths have now been measured but the buoys have not been placed. Therefore, the lighters cannot go.

Enquiry into Explosions at Stations

*181. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry in connection with the explosions at Asansol, Katpadi and Kanpur has since been completed; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report would be laid on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Reports of Magisterial Enquiry in Katpadi Explosion and the Reports of Inspectors of Explosives concerned on all the three explosions will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on Monday the 18th instant.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any compensation has been paid to the victims of Asansol, Katpadi and Kanpur and, if so, the amount of compensation?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I do not have this specific information with me now. I ask for notice.

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise. The hon. Members may look into the report and then put the questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No report has been laid today. It is to be laid on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: Let them read the report on Monday and then table questions. We will be sitting for 30 days more.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that in these three explosions nearly

25 people have been killed and in view of the fact that a report has been submitted, what steps have the Government taken to prevent the recurrence of such explosions, on the basis of this report?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Effective steps have been taken and all these steps will certainly be included in the report that is to be laid on the Table.

Mr. Speaker. Those steps are all mentioned in the report.

Re. Questions 182 and 183

Mr. Speaker: Shri Morarka, Shri Nathwani, Shri Rajendra Singh. Absent—I request hon. Members to confine themselves to their seats during the Question Hour. During other hours, they may change if they like here and there.

Cochin Port

*184. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 934 on the 17th August, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Choudhury Committee on the service conditions of employees of the Cochin port has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The recommendations made by the Officer on Special Duty are at present under examination, after which the question of publishing them will be taken up.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the orders passed by the Government removing certain anomalies in the service conditions as between Class III and Class IV staff