

Dredging in Ganga

*1362. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce dredging between Pahleza-ghat and Mahendrugghats for the smooth running of steamers (in the Ganges);

(b) whether dredging machine has been sent at the site; and

(c) the time when operations will begin?

The Minister of Transport and Communications and Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No, Sir. At present the Railway ferry services use these ghats. If they require the assistance of dredging to maintain the channel conditions at the two ghats, the services of the Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board's dredger will be made available.

(b) A dredger belonging to the Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board is at Patna at present. It is intended for operations on the Upper Ganga above Patna.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: In view of the fact that the steamers between Mahendraughat and Palezhaghat often get stuck in the way, and the passengers have great difficulty and waste of time in crossing the river which involves of two or three miles only, will Government consider the desirability of either providing a pontoon bridge or making the river clear so that the steamer may pass?

Shri S. K. Patil: The river conservation scheme is taken in hand, and continuously this process is applied. Therefore, the hon. Member's apprehension that it will be blocked is not correct.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Perhaps, the Minister is not aware that in a year,

more than a dozen times, the steamers get stuck in the middle of the river, and the passengers have to wait there for three or four hours or even longer.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information. Even in the previous question, he was only giving information.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: I want to know whether any arrangement is going to be made to keep the channel clear so that the steamer may pass.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information to the hon. Minister and is asking for an assurance. This is a suggestion for action.

Shri S. K. Patil: This is a suggestion for action, and it will be taken note of.

Electricity Rates in Delhi

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*1363. { **Shri Vajpayee:**
 Shri Radha Raman:
 Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi State Electricity Board has introduced a new two-part tariff for industrial consumers and bulk distributing licences in place of the flat rate per unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the small scale industrialists in this connection; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The increase in the cost of production of electricity, due to the rising cost of fuel, general consumable stores and line materials, and grant of additional allowances to labour;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Board has decided to exempt small-scale and industrial power loads up to and including 10 B.H.P. from the payment of the minimum consumption guarantee. The rate of rebate on bills, for prompt payment, has been increased from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know whether there is a proposal to give some more relief to the small-scale industries?

Shri Hathi: The reply to part (d) of the question embodies the concessions that have been given. Further than this, I do not think the Board considers to give any further relief.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know the rate charged per unit for industrial purposes?

Shri Hathi: The charge per unit is 11 nP. per k.w.h. for the first 2,000 k.w.h., 10 nP for the next 3,000 k.w.h., and 9 nP for all in excess of 5,000 kw.h. per month.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether Government are going to apply this rate throughout India for all industrial purposes?

Shri Hathi: It is not a question of the Government of India applying the rates uniformly all over the country. It is a question of the rates being fixed by the State Boards. These rates are fixed by the State Electricity Boards.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know the rate at which electricity is made available from Bhakra-Nangal to Delhi, and whether there has been any increase in the rate from that source?

Shri Hathi: There has not been any increase in the rates in the supply from Bhakra-Nangal to the Delhi State Electricity Board.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Is there any difference in the supply of

electricity for small-scale industries and that for big industries? May I also know whether Government are aware of the fact that many applications from small-scale industries are still pending?

Shri Hathi: There is a difference in the tariff for supply of power to small-scale industries and to big industries.

Railway Testing and Research Centre, Lucknow

*136a. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri B. C. Mullick:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Testing and Research Centre at Lucknow has evolved a device for reducing the danger of Railway accidents;

(b) if so, the nature of that device; and

(c) whether this device is easy to be introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Research on such devices goes on, but no acceptable design has yet been evolved.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what efforts are being made by the Railway Ministry to have an acceptable device made in that research centre?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The people who are experts in this line are busy at the job. They have already devised certain designs. We have tried them under certain conditions, but they have not proved very satisfactory. And our people are trying to perfect it, and we are giving them

every possible encouragement that is needed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is there any hope of having any acceptable design during this year?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, a certain design work was put forward and tried. It was successful at low speeds. But they are trying to improve it. We are not quite satisfied with the design as it is at present.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that a rail flaw detector was imported from outside, and if so, may I know whether the experiment that is going on is on that line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is an entirely different instrument. That is known as the supersonic crack detector. It detects various cracks in rails or axles. That is an entirely different instrument. This would be an instrument which will be installed inside the locomotive, and if the signal is at danger, it will sound a hooter and red light will be switched on.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any private individuals have been offering devices for reducing accidents, and if so, whether the Railway Board is taking cognizance of them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes. Every suggestion is thoroughly scrutinised.

Irrigation by Artificial Rain Fall

*1368. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for artificial irrigation by the clouds and rainfall analysis for multi-purpose projects in India is under the contemplation of Government; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). There is no scheme at present for

irrigation by artificial inducement of rain. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is, however, engaged on a basic scientific study of the mechanism of rain formation in clouds. There is a scheme for rainfall analysis of multi-purpose projects. Work on installing additional rain gauges is in hand.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any experiment is conducted in the National Laboratories of the Country, and if so, with what success?

Shri Hathi: As I said, some research is being conducted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि कुछ दिन पहले दो स्थानों पर इस कृत्रिम वर्षा का प्रयोग किया गया था, और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई है कि पर एकड़ उस में कितना खर्च होगा ?

Shri Hathi: As it is now, these are in the experiment stages and even in the advanced countries of the world, this is not being done on a large scale. Therefore, it is not possible actually to say what would be the expenditure per acre if we take it up on a large scale.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a news item published in the papers that Dr. Savor, a former officer of the Meteorological Department, now staying in Delhi, claims to have made some rain clouds and demonstrated it in Delhi itself?

Shri Hathi: It is not a question of making clouds. It is a question of feeding clouds either with ice pieces or with sodium nitrate or some similar chemical, and then water dropping from the clouds which have been so fed. Experiments on a small scale are being made, but, as I have said, it is not yet on such a large scale as to enable us to say that we could actually have rainfall.