

**Shri A. P. Jain:** We have taken a number of steps. It will not be in public interests to specify them because that will give the clue to the smugglers.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** Out of these 883 mds. may I know how much of it was wheat belonging to the fair price shops?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** We have no such record.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether the steps that have been taken by Government have not yielded any effective results and that most of the arrested persons are those who are just taking small quantities of wheat and that the big persons, the big trucks etc., are still continuing smuggling?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It may be that something may be taking place here and there; but there is good reason to think that smuggling has practically stopped.

**Shri Radha Raman:** Just now it was disclosed that 104 persons have been arrested. May I know at what stage these prosecutions are?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Forty-three persons have been convicted already and the other cases are proceeding.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में गेहूँ कितने रुपये मन बिकता है और यहाँ से जो गेहूँ उत्तर प्रदेश ले जाया जाता है वहाँ पर कितने रुपये मन बिकता है ?

**श्री प्र० प्र० जैन :** दिल्ली में गेहूँ का भाव साढ़े १५ रुपये से लेकर १७ रुपये तक है और उत्तर प्रदेश के घास पास के इलाकों में २० रुपये मन से लेकर २२ रुपये मन तक है।

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** I do not agree with the hon. Minister's reply that smuggling has stopped. May I know whether Government has taken steps just as blacklisting these firms which are carrying on smuggling of wheat from Delhi to U.P. and cancelling their licences etc.?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Some of the firms have been blacklisted and some licences have been suspended and temporary licences are not being issued to them.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** The hon. Minister just now stated that he does not know the quantity of wheat which was smuggled from the fair price shops. May I know whether it is a fact that wheat from fair price shops was also smuggled and included in this quantity?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How to distinguish one wheat from the other?

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** May I know whether it is correct?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** There is not much likelihood of imported wheat being smuggled because in Punjab and Delhi we are not distributing imported wheat to any substantial extent.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether motor trucks and other vehicles have been seized in the act of smuggling, and, if so, how many?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Yes; some motor trucks were seized.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** How many?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I could not give the number.

#### Salinity of Hooghly Water

\*162. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain locomotive engines in commission in the Port Railways, Calcutta, went out of order on the 8th June, 1958 due to the high salinity of Hooghly water which is used in the running of these locomotives and that the Eastern Railway was approached for loan of some engines to maintain the services; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the port authorities to meet the problems created by high salinity of Hooghly water?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The high salinity of Hooghly water is due to the lack of head water supply for the river during the dry season. The Port Commissioners have, therefore, as a temporary measure, decided to supply water to the locos by sinking a number of tube wells at the Docks and jetties and thus avoiding the use of river water.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know how many engines went out of order and what is the loss arising out of the immobilisation of the goods as they could not be moved in and out of port?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** In foul weather period, as we call it, from April to June every year, on an average it has been estimated that as many as 10 to 12 go out of order.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Have the Port authorities kept any record of the percentage of salinity in Hooghly waters from year to year and is there any evidence of its increase?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not know whether any record of the percentage of salinity is kept. But, it is rather obvious that in a season when the rains are delayed or the water supply has dried or diminished, the salinity goes up and our report is that whenever such things occur, the number of engines that go out of order is greater.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Is it a fact that this year, there was a record salinity of water, compared to 10 parts in a lakh cusecs of water to 650 parts in a lakh cusecs of water and also that 41 engines went out of order—not ten engines—on a particular day this year.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** My information is not that. Of course this was a very bad year. But my information is not that as many as 40 engines went out of order.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** The hon. Minister has said that this is due to the decrease in the flow of water from the head water works from the Ganga into the Hooghly. May I know whether the port authorities and engineers concerned with the conservancy of the Lower Hooghly Channel connecting the approaches to the ports there, have made any independent investigations and submitted any report as to the cause of the increase in the percentage of salinity and the extent to which the problem of high salinity is considered to be connected with the problem of checking of silting of the lower Hooghly Channel and the head water channel?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think it is accepted on all hands, including our conservant staff, that the problem arises because of lack of supply of fresh water which is to be brought in from somewhere into the Hooghly and if we get fresh water, this problem can be solved.

**Shri Heda:** Is it not a fact that there are certain periods when because of the availability of fresh water salinity is low and that advantage is not being taken of this period?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I may give the averages required by the hon. Member. We have got as many as 39 locomotives for traffic purposes, 5 for ballast, 3 for break-downs and 2 for use as spare locomotives. All these are employed in this particular manner. That is the average. But there are difficulties in bad weather.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** Do the Government feel satisfied that this problem of salinity can be solved by digging a few tube-wells? Or, if something else has to be done, what is it?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have already indicated that this is only a temporary expedient in order to meet the situation. The real remedy would lie in bringing fresh water from somewhere.....

**An Hon. Member:** From where? (Interruptions)

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** What steps are being taken to solve it permanently?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I am afraid that that question has to be put to my colleague, the Irrigation and Power Minister.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Since there is no permanent solution, why should we pursue the matter spending our time?

**Report of the British Shipyard Mission**

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**Shri Damani:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:**  
**Shri V. P. Nayar:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Bameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Bose:**  
**Shri Kodiyar:**  
**Shri V. C. Shukla:**  
**Shri Focker Sahib:**  
**Shri Kumaran:**  
**Shri Panigrahi:**  
**Shri Radha Raman:**  
**Shri Tangamani:**  
**Shri Ghosal:**  
**Shri Nath Pal:**  
**Shri Shivananjappa:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Mohamed Imam:**  
**Shri Vasudevan Nair:**  
**Shri N. E. Munisamy:**  
**Shri Maniyangadan:**  
**Shri Sanganna:**  
**Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**

\*163.

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Committee has been appointed by Government to examine the report of the British Shipyard Mission; and

(b) if so, whether it has examined the report; and

(c) what are its findings?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Report of the British Shipyard Mission is still under examination.

**Shri Damani:** In view of the fact that our mercantile marine is of inadequate tonnage and that we have to make huge payments on freight which involves foreign exchange also,...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question should come straight; there are about 30 persons.

**Shri Damani:** ... may I know whether Government has considered it desirable to purchase a few new ships than spend the amount on this shipyard?

**An Hon. Member:** This is not about ships for our merchant navy.

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** May I know whether it is a fact that the British Shipyard Mission has recommended Cochin as the best site for the construction of the shipyard and whether it is being favourably considered?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The report of the Commission is based on certain considerations and it has been stated that Cochin is the best. There is no doubt that this is being considered by the Committee

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** I want to know the time by which the Committee would be able to conclude its work?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Two meetings have already been held and I hope in the next meeting they will be able to finalise their recommendations on the report.

**Shri Basappa:** May I know whether the claims of Karwar will be taken into consideration while deciding on the report and also whether the Mysore Government come with all the facilities?