

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:

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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?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This matter is incidental to the consideration of the report and the committee now considering the report will bear that thing in mind.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that some members of the British Mission complained that they had too tight a programme and that they were being hustled from place to place and at least when they were at one place, Karwar, they were not shown anything round in the shape of the Jog Falls or the Bhadravati Iron Works which were nearby?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of any such complaint.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether this High-Power Committee has visited any place—Karwar and other places recommended by the Mission?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No. The Mission, however, visited nine places and Cochin was one of them.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: In view of the fact that the Shipyard Mission consisted of high technical experts, I would like to know what the purpose of this High Level Committee is. Why was it necessary and why is this Committee taking so long to finalise its decision on the report that had already been presented by those who are recognised experts in the field?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is normal for the Government to appoint such committees to consider the reports that are presented to it. They have got to take into consideration all the points in the report and various other factors.

Shri Kumaran: How much is the estimated foreign exchange requirement for the second shipyard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is contained in the report itself in respect of the various sites.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether this second shipyard will be com-

pleted before the end of the Second Plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot answer that question at this stage.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Minister stated that the British Mission has recommended that the second shipyard should be started in Cochin. What will be the expenditure involved and may I know the personnel of this Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not have these figures.

Shri Tangamani: At least the names could be given.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Shri N. R. Pillai, Secretary-General, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri R. L. Gupta, Secretary, Department of Transport, Shri O. Pulla Reddi, Defence Secretary, Shri L. K. Jha, Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri E. P. Moon, Adviser, Planning Commission, Dr. Nagendra Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Transport, Shri S. S. Shiralkar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Shri B. D. Kalelkar, Industrial Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: By what time is this committee likely to take a final decision?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give a specific date. I think they will do it very soon.

Shri Mohammed Imam: This particular team consisted of experts who had knowledge about ship-building and it gave a report. Are we to presume that the new Committee that has been constituted and its members are better technicians than the members of the British Mission and are we to presume that the location of the site that has been decided by them is not acceptable to the Government and that they are thinking of selecting some other site?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We need not presume anything here.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say a word, Sir? It is a normal practice, when an expert team is appointed or brought in from outside, for the recommendations of such a team to be considered by the Government. The consideration by the Government usually consists in a high-power team of senior Secretaries considering the matter and reporting to the Cabinet. Then, the Cabinet considers it. It is the normal practice. What even an expert team suggests does not automatically take effect because the expert team may well consider it from the expert point of view but not from certain other points of view—let us say, Defence. I am not referring to this particular case. But there are other matters which have to be considered in that connection. And so, the normal practice has been pursued in this. When this so-called high-powered committee has considered it, they will report to the Cabinet; then the Cabinet will consider it and come to a decision.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know what important recommendations the report of the Commission contained and whether those recommendations will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know whether all these Secretaries are all conceded experts in shipping only; and, if so, whether we shall not have an independent Member of Parliament and also an independent businessman?

Shri V. C. Shukla: Are we likely to complete this shipyard before the end of this Plan period?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That has already been answered.

Foodgrains from U.S.A.

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 Shri Damani:
 Shri Ramoshwar Tanti:
 Shri Tridib Kumar
 Chaudhuri:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.A. has offered to make additional funds available to India under P.L. 480 out of the last appropriation to enable India to purchase additional foodgrains;

(b) if so, the amount of this fresh allocation of funds; and

(c) what quantity of foodgrains will be imported under this new offer?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) \$57 million.

(c) About 7.8 lakh tons.

Shri Damani: May I know what is the landed cost of this consignment per ton, and how it compares with the previous supplies?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Out of these 7.8 lakh tons we propose to purchase about 5.8 lakh tons with the 37 million dollars provided for wheat. We do not know the exact landed cost. With regard to milo, we intend to import about one lakh tons with the 4 million dollars provided, and we expect to import one lakh tons of corn with 5 million dollars provided for it.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the total value and quantity of wheat purchased under P.L. 480 so far this year?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Out of the funds provided under P.L. 480, we have so far purchased 36.95 lakh tons of wheat and 1.93 lakh tons of rice.

Shri Barman: May I know the period of time by which this loan will