

out by competition on the open tender system. Some small contracts have been successfully secured by a few retired employees, engaged in this line of business on the basis of their offers being the lowest acceptable.

(c) Does not arise

Calcutta Port

*879. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the river drafts have fallen in the Port of Calcutta,

(b) whether it is causing delay in finding berths to ships, and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the matter?

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

(b) No, Sir. Reduction in drafts has no bearing on finding berths for vessels. It does however occasionally lead to the detention of the Ships at Sandheads.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha

STATEMENT

The present fall in river drafts is the result of deterioration of the River Hooghly in the estuary below Diamond Harbour in what is known as the Balari/Rangafalla Channel. Suitable river training works coupled with dredging is considered to be the permanent solution to the problem. Experiments are in progress at the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona to determine the appropriate river training works to be taken up. In the meanwhile dredging of the Balari/Rangafalla Channel has been undertaken to improve the depths. Steps are also being undertaken to add to the dredger fleet of the Port Commissioners to cope with the increased dredging requirements.

डीज़ल कारें

*881. श्री अण्णास और शास्त्री: क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय किन-किन बड़ी लाइन पर डीज़ल कारे चल रही है,

(ख) क्या और किनी बड़ी लाइन पर डीज़ल कार चलाने की कोई योजना विचाराधीन है, और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विदेशों से कुछ और डीज़ल कारे खरीदने का विचार है?

रेलवे उपमन्त्री (श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ):

(क) बड़ी लाइन की डीज़ल कारे मध्य, उत्तर और दक्षिण रेलों में चलती हैं। सभा पटल पर एक बयान रखा गया है जिसमें बताया गया है कि ये डीज़ल कारे किन-किन सेक्शनों पर चल रही हैं। [देखिय परिशिष्ट ३, अनुबन्ध संख्या १०]

(ख) जी हाँ।

(ग) दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में नहीं।

Export of Paddy from Punjab

*882 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi. Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that export of paddy has been banned from Punjab by the Central Government, and

(b) if so how it has affected the price thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The imposition of the restriction has not resulted in any fall in the price of paddy.