

power house, and two additional sets to generate 75,000 k.w. will be provided at Hirakud (First Stage).

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In view of the fact that the question of the rate at which electricity is being supplied to the aluminium plants has become quite a controversial one, may I know whether Government have gone into the question as to the rate at which aluminium plants should be supplied with electricity, both at Rihand and by the DVC as well as the Hirakud projects?

Shri Hathi: As I said, it is a question for the State Government to look into.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know if the aluminium plant is being supplied electricity at a much lesser rate than the cost of production?

Shri Hathi: As I said, I have not got those figures with me. It is a matter for the State Governments to look into.

Railway Sleepers from Burma

*298. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1428 on the 20th March, 1959 regarding railway sleepers from Burma and state:

(a) the particulars of the action taken in respect of the sleepers found to be of defective specifications;

(b) whether the work of inspection of sleepers has since been completed; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) All sleepers which did not fully conform to specifications, were jointly inspected by the Railway Engineers and the representative of the Burma State Timber Board in accordance with the terms of the contract.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As a result of the joint inspection, it was agreed that all these sleepers were suitable for use in sidings. It was, therefore, mutually decided to accept the sleepers at 50 per cent of their contracted price.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Kandla Port

2. **Shri Khimji:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the port of Kandla has been all of a sudden closed to traffic for two months and the steamers scheduled to arrive at Kandla are being diverted to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Khimji: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing on or about the 27th October in newspapers of Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places in the State of Bombay to the effect that the Kandla Port was closed to traffic for two months due to heavy silting and the steamers scheduled to arrive at Kandla were being diverted to Bombay? Is Government also aware that many newspapers including the *Times of India* made severe comments on the sudden closure of the Kandla Port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Our attention was drawn to certain Press reports including the one appearing on the 9th November, 1959 in the *Free Press Journal*. But all such reports are totally unfounded.

Shri Khimji: Why has such a long time been taken to issue a contradiction when the news appeared on the 27th October?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is very difficult for Government to catch up with all the reports that appear in the Press and to issue contradictions in regard to each of them. The Port has been working and working quite satisfactorily.

Shri Khimji: Are Government aware that from time to time false news against Kandla appears in the newspapers? Have Government inquired into the source of these news? What steps are Government taking to counteract this false propaganda against Kandla, though it has fulfilled all expectations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are painfully aware that such reports do appear like that. But I do not know how we can stop them because there are people who go about publishing false reports for their own reasons.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a serious allegation made from time to time in responsible newspapers what is the publicity officer of the department doing?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We contradict such statements. We visit the place and then issue statements. What we can do is to publicise the fact that the Port is prospering.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know why of all the ports, Kandla has been giving us trouble? Enormous amounts of money have been spent on it, the engineers have failed us and also the contractors have been prosecuted. Have we not got a proper plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The truth is the other way about: In fact, Kandla has done better than our expectations. What was planned for it to be achieved as a target period of 20 years or so has been achieved much earlier. It has been working very well in the matter of traffic, revenues and other aspects.

Shri Khimji: Is it not a fact that Kandla has fulfilled all its targets and has even gone beyond them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is going on very satisfactorily with the fulfilment of the targets.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी

*२७०. श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी समय पर प्रकाशित न होने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) डायरेक्टरी में बड़े-बड़े और अमूल परिवर्तन करने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार को यह विदित है कि डायरेक्टरी का अगला अंक निकलने से पहले टेलीफोन नम्बर बदल देने से टेलीफोन का प्रयोग करने वालों को कितनी असुविधा और हानि उठानी पड़ती है; और

(घ) इस बारे में प्रक्रिया को विनियमित करने और उसमें सुधार के लिये कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहदुर) : (क) से (घ). इस सम्बन्ध में एक विवरण-पत्र सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) सम्भवतः संकेत दिल्ली टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी की ओर है । यह डायरेक्टरी अब तक गर्वनमेंट प्रेस में छपती रही है । चूँकि इस प्रेस में छपाई का कार्य सतोषजनक न था, अतः अब इसे प्राइवेट प्रेस में छापा जा रहा है । प्राइवेट प्रेस से इस कार्य के परिवर्तन, छपाई के टेण्डर मंगाने, उनकी