

Shri Ansar Harvani: The hon. Deputy Minister pointed out that three persons have been arrested. May I know whether out of the 3 persons, there is any railway employee or any foreigner?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I could not tell him.

Shri Ansar Harvani: That is a very important thing.

Shri A. M. Tariq: He must have known it.

Shri Vajpayee: Are we to understand that the question of public interest is involved? Are we not entitled to know whether any railway employee is involved? The question has been put and if the reply is not given, doubts are likely to be raised in our minds.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We do not require any names. Let him give us information.

Shri Ansar Harvani: It is a very important question. We want to know the facts.

Mr. Speaker: All that the hon. Minister stated is that he is not in possession of the names.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Pending investigations it is wrong to disclose the names.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We do not want the names. We want to know whether any official is involved.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): It is not clear whether there was any railway employee among them or not. I will check up the position and let the hon. Member know.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Was there any foreigner?

Mr. Speaker: He does not know. Otherwise, he would have said so. Hon. Ministers must anticipate all relevant questions in the House. Otherwise, there is no purpose in putting supplementaries. Even if the supplementaries are to be given in advance then there is no end to it.

Intermediate Ports Development Committee

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Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Assar:
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Supakar:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 *167. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Khimji:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Amjad Ali:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Kodyian:

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

(a) whether the report of the Intermediate Ports Development Committee has been received by Government by now;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made therein; and

(c) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table?

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

(b) A statement of the main recommendations of the Committee is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2231/60].

(c) Yes.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: The Committee has recommended work costing Rs. 99 lakhs for the development of Paradip port to be given first priority. May I know whether the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have included allocations for the first phase suggested by the Committee in our tentative proposals for the development of minor ports in the Third Plan.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What steps have the Government taken on the suggestion of the Committee to have dredger pools?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This matter is in our hands and we have already placed orders for certain survey launches. The specifications have been finalized even for the dredgers and I suppose that the dredgers will be available shortly.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the Government are going to complete the examination of this report, finalize their recommendations and take decisions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In the first instance, we have to send a copy of the report to the State Governments. As a matter of fact, the report is under print and we hope the printed copies will be available in the next two or three weeks. We have to receive the comments from the State Governments because minor ports are concurrently, rather specially, the responsibilities of the State Governments. Therefore, we shall have to depend upon the priority as laid down for the integrated development of schemes.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In regard to the development of major ports that is the responsibility of the Centre.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question is whether any minor port can be developed into an all weather port. An all weather port has to be distinguished from a major port. Only two ports were recommended for development, namely, Tuticorin and Mangalore. But the development of these two ports depends on the financial allocation. We would be requiring a sum of Rs. 25 crores for the development of even these two major ports. That has not been found possible at present.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the urgency of export promotion and the possibility of sending iron ore

from these minor ports, may I know if Government will take very special steps to expedite this matter so that we can increase the export of iron ore very quickly?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, the very first and primary object of the committee was to assess the proper size of iron ore exports from various ports and the most economical routes to be followed. It is on the basis of these studies that they have made certain recommendations. Naturally, our action in regard to the developmental schemes will follow the same pattern.

Shri Khimji: May I know whether the views of the National Harbour Board were also obtained in the matter?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The report was submitted on 30th April 1960 and, as I said, it is under print. A meeting of the National Harbour Board is going to take place on the 11th and 12th of August in Bombay. The report will be placed before them for their consideration. What we had planned meanwhile was to include certain proposals for the development of intermediate or minor ports and the other development schemes for these ports in the draft Plan. That we have done.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: In the statement that is given here the Committee has given first priority and second priority for the development of Paradip port. May I know whether the Ministry of Transport had any discussion with the Ministry of Railways for the construction of a railway line from Cuttack to Paradip so that by the time the port is developed the railway line is also ready?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The whole development project will be taken up in an integrated way. We have to follow the pattern which has been recommended to us by the Committee

in their report. I think the details are given here. I need hardly read them up.

Shri Kodiyan: Some time ago an officer had been deputed to examine the possibility of developing some ports on the West Coast and he had submitted to the Government that Beypore in Kerala can be developed as an all weather port. From the statement I find that Beypore has been relegated to the background. When the Government examine these recommendations and come to a final decision will they give special consideration to the officer's report regarding Beypore?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The development of each and every minor port which has been included in the report will be taken up on its own merit. I think the description that a particular port or the development thereof has been relegated to some backward place will not be correct. We shall have to examine how far each scheme that has been recommended will enable us to expand the capacity of the particular port and that is how we take it.

Shri Kuttikrishnan Nair: May I know whether in respect of the Beypore port work has already begun? When will we know whether it is feasible to develop it as an all weather port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the question will be rather premature because, as I said just now, the recommendations have been made. They will be examined and we shall invite the views of the Government. We are not stay put at that. We will take whatever is possible within the limitations of the finance that is available to us.

Mr. Speaker: When the report is ready will it be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have mentioned that in the main part of my answer.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: I shall give an opportunity to discuss the report after it is laid on the Table of the House. When is it likely to be laid on the Table?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In two or three weeks we are going to get the printed copies. We shall place a copy on the Table as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: I suppose we can expect it in this session.

इम्फाल में चावल के मूल्य में वृद्धि

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 *१६८. { श्री प्र० क० देव
 { श्री मुह-मद इलास :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत मई में मनीपुर के इम्फाल स्थान पर चावल के मूल्य में असाधारण वृद्धि हुई थी ; और

(ख) मूल्यों को घटाने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की ?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). There had been a rise in the price of rice in Imphal during May last. This was mainly due to the damage caused to paddy crop by floods and rat infestation in certain areas. In order to arrest the rise in prices, large quantities of rice have been made available to the Manipur Administration which are being distributed through fair price shops at subsidized rates.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मणिपुर एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की तरफ से जो फ़ेयर-प्राइस की दुकानें खोली गई हैं, उन में क्या भाव निर्धारित किये गये हैं ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The price fixed is Rs. 16 per maund. We are supply-