2563 Oral Answers

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Shri Supakar: My question is relating to their attempts inside India. I want to know whether they are making any attempt to manufacture this locomotive inside India as soon as possible.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The proposals for the manufacture of diesel locomotives are under consideration separately. That has nothing to do with Suri Tranmission.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if this is the first invention of its kind made by an Indian with regard to Railways, or there have been other inventions by Indians with regard to Railways?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have our Research and Development wing in the Railways. They have been developing various things connected with railways. But no invention has attracted so much attention in the world as the Suri Transmission has done.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: May I know whether Mr. Suri has been rewarded for this invention?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Another hon. Member put the same question and the hon. Minister replied that it is too early to consider and decide. Let, us await the results.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I put the question as the others are absent?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Port on Western Bank of Hooghly

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1494 on the 28th March, 1960 and state the nature of progress since made in setting up a deep draft port on the western bank of the Hooghly?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The investigations into the technical aspects of the proposal are continuing. The U.N. expert to advise on hydraulics and coastal engineering joined in April, 1960. The Haldia scheme has meanwhile been included in the Third Five-year Plan for major ports. A detail project report is under preparation. The Planning Commission have also been requested to include the construction of a Rail Link to Haldia in the Third Five-year Plan.

Shri S. C. Samanta: It appeared in the papers that these U.N. experts have completed their work and they are submitting their report. Is it true?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. I do not think they have completed their work. They have claimed 12 months' time. Their work is continuing. That is what I have said in the reply.

Shri S. C. Samanta: It appeared in the papers that Rs. 7 crores has been allotted for this scheme. The hon. Minister said that a railway connection will be laid down. May I know whether this sum will be sufficient and if not, how much will be necessary?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The estimated cost of the whole project is Rs. 25 crores if we have wet dock system and Rs. 12.3 crores if they are open jetties. It is true that tentatively there is a provision of Rs. 7 crores made for this in the Third Plan.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether any decision has been taken as to whether the port will be a jetty port or it will have the wet dock system? Shri Raj Bahadur: That would depend upon the final analysis of the results that these experts who are engaged on this work arrive at.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know what effect the development of this Haldia port is likely to have on the existing traffic which is handled at the present Calcutta port? Has the Government prepared the scheme at Haldia on the basis of a co-ordinated sort of a supplementary scheme between Haldia and Calcutta or separately?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is the result of a long-standing demand to enable the Calcutta region to handle as much of the export/import cargo as possible. Because there are draft restrictions so far as Calcutta port proper is concerned, it is not possible for us to admit ships of more than 26 or 27 feet draft on most of the days. It has been thought proper that there should be a subsidiary port where lighting or topping operations on the incoming or outgoing ships could be carried out. It is with that end in view that this particular scheme has been thought of.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know if the Government is thinking of connecting Haldia with Kharagpur by rail in order to carry iron ore or other manganese ore through this port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That would be an essential part of the whole scheme.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The hon. Minister stated that the investigations into the proposal for a deep draft port are continuing. May I know for how long this will continue?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the terms of reference said that the period for this work to begin with is 12 months. In case they require a longer period, that may have to be given that because they may have to make detailed examination of water currents, behaviour of waves, tides and other things. F.A.O. Campaign "Against Hunger"

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

(a) whether any schemes have been finalised regarding the Food and Agriculture Organisation Campaign in India "Against Hunger"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) It has beenⁱ decided to participate in the Freedom from Hunger Campaign sponsored by by the F.A.O. The Programme of activities under the Campaign has not yet been finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Warior: To finalise the programme, may I know whether a' machinery has been set up by the Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. We have set up a National Campaign' Committee. We have also constituted a Governing board. The Governing board has also met and it has appointed two sub-committees one for framing a programme.

Shri Warior: May I know the general character of this campaign?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The campaign has been initiated by the Director General of the F.A.O. with the object of focussing public attention on a world-wide scale on the continuing problem of hunger and to mobilise national and international effortsⁱⁱ towards its solution.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know whether the Government knows about one Mr. Sharma who came to me yesterday from Jaipur State? He told me that he is very well known to the