

17th September. Having regard to the circumstances also, he had no financial difficulties... (Interruptions). Besides the subsistence allowance paid to him, a sum of Rs. 2,000 was paid to him by the Rehabilitation Ministry. That was with him. Apart from his general financial situation, he was not hard up for cash or anything like that. On the very same day of his suicide, he went out collecting donations for Durga Puja. It is very difficult to ascertain what exactly has been the cause of the suicide, but it is learnt from police inquiry that he was generally depressed because of the general failure of the strike (Interruptions). If anybody has to take responsibility, the public will judge who has to take it. (Interruptions).

Shri B. Das Gupta: I want to ask a question about his salary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is it a fact that on the 16th September, when he was giving evidence, he was threatened by the officers and humiliated in the worst possible way. He was even told, 'Ask your wife to earn'. It is these things which led to the suicide and the hon. Minister is saying something else.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is absolutely baseless.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Has there been any inquiry about it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: A detailed inquiry has been conducted and the insinuations made by my hon. friend are absolutely baseless. (Interruptions).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You have killed him, not we.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I request for a half-hour discussion on this.

Shri B. Das Gupta: The Minister said that he was getting a basic salary of Rs. 120. I just want to know.....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow him to know anything more.

Shri B. Das Gupta: He was getting only Rs. 40 per month.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions on this. I am also watching. When any hon. Member wants to ask a question, I allow it. Just now while we were on the previous question, I allowed Shrimati Renu Chakravarty to ask a question, even though I had called for the next question on the agenda. I did so because I thought that some elucidation ought to be made. I have allowed every hon. Member whose name appears on the order paper to ask questions once, twice; if in spite of that, any hon. Member persists in asking any more question, I will have to go to the next question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The point is that the Minister has given wrong information.

Mr. Speaker: How will the hon. Member be satisfied with the information? The hon. Minister is not going to accept what the hon. Member says. I cannot do anything more than allow hon. Members opportunities to ask questions.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I ask a question of policy arising out of this.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Inland Water Transport

*52. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision of Rs. 667 lakhs for the development of Inland Water Transport in the country during the Third Five Year Plan period have been increased as recommended by Gokhale Committee;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) if not, how this amount is being allotted to the different States; and

(d) what amount has been allotted to Orissa?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications

(Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is a provision of Rs. 600 lakhs for the development of I.W.T. during the Third Plan period. The Ministry of Transport and Communications taking into account both the limitations of the available resources and the recommendations of the Gokhale Committee have in consultation with the State Government drawn up tentative schemes of Rs. 667 lakhs, which are yet to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the tentative break-up for each State Government is laid on the Table of Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 17.]

(d) Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: May I know whether there is any possibility of increasing this target of Rs. 600 lakhs in the Third Plan for developing inland water transport as it has been neglected in the Second Plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Planning Commission after examining the various priorities have come to certain conclusions and it is only up to them to consider whether any increase in allocation is possible. So far as the schemes for Orissa are concerned, as the figures show, an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been set apart.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: May I know whether the Government of Orissa had asked for more money than the sum allotted? If so, what are the schemes for which they had asked for and whether all the schemes have been approved?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It will be a long list. I have got it with me. They asked for a total provision of Rs. 2.5 crores covering their schemes, but it has not been possible to include all the schemes. The Planning Commission have, in consultation with us, been able to allocate what is supposed to be more or less the highest for any State.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement, I find that Rs. 10 lakhs have

been allocated for Madras State. Is this allocation meant for dredging, widening and deepening the Buckingham Canal?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as Madras is concerned, the schemes are for improving terminal facilities of the Buckingham Canal at Madras, improvement of Buckingham Canal and two paths.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that foreign companies like the Joint Steamer Company operating their services on the Brahmaputra are very heavily subsidised by Government to the tune of lakhs of rupees, do Government propose to replace these services by agencies of Government or corporations sponsored by Government during the Third Plan period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There are many factors involved in the consideration of this question, and it would be appreciated by the hon. Member that as much as about 60 per cent. of the total import-export cargo from and to Assam is carried by inland water transport through the Joint Steamer Company and other inland water transport companies. It is supposed that 80 per cent. of the inland water transport cargo is carried by the Joint Steamer Company and it will not be possible, in view of the big stretch of Pakistan waters coming in between, to replace them immediately.

Shri Achar: May I know the amount that might be required if effect is to be given to the various schemes supported by the Gokhale Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The total amount involved in the recommendations was to the tune of Rs. 167.60 crores. They recommended Rs. 50 crores for the Third Plan. Out of that, we proposed schemes costing Rs. 40 crores and over. The Planning Commission have found it possible only to spare Rs. 6 crores for the purpose.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Is there any possibility of having water transport between Delhi and Agra?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If we can have water all round the year up to the required depth in Jumna between Delhi and Agra, that might be possible.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: We can have a dam and allow the water to accumulate.

Shri Hem Barua: Admitting everything that the hon. Minister has said about the services rendered by the Join. Steamer Company operating on the Brahmaputra, may I draw his attention to the fact that there is a company that has been periodically threatening deadlock and all that, and that it has been propped up by Government through public finances? In view of this, will Government reconsider the position and refuse to whip up an unwilling horse?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Joint Steamer Company is not unwilling horse. In fact, it is making its own dividends. Also, we cannot say that it is threatening us all the time.

Shri Hem Barua: It has been.

Shri Raj Bahadur: We cannot say that it is threatening us all the time or that it has been unreasonable. We have provided as much assistance as we thought was necessary, for example, for keeping the river channel navigable and other matters. We have advanced certain loans also. It would be difficult to replace it immediately keeping in view the international character of the inland water route.

Of course, as a long-term objective it may be possible or desirable to Indianise this particular sector of the industry.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: The Gokhale Committee suggested Rs. 50 crores; the Government of India suggested Rs. 40 crores and the Planning Commission has allotted Rs. 6 crores. How is this proportion worked out? How can Inland Water Transport be developed in this way? Could not Government ask more money from the Planning Commission?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question can be put to the Planning Commission. I can only say that keeping in view the overall resources of the country and the respective priorities of the various schemes and projects they had allotted Rs. 6 crores.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

इस्पात का आयात

*५३. { श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :
श्री से० प्र० मेहवी :
श्री प्र० गं० देव :
श्री आचार :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री २६ अगस्त, १९६० के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ८१३ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे बोर्ड ने इस बीच में एक लाख टन से अधिक इस्पात का आयात के लिये विदेशों में आदेश दिये हैं।

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे देश कौन कौन से हैं ; और

(ग) इसका प्रति टन मूल्य क्या है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री से० बे० रामस्वामी):
(क) जी हां। लगभग ९६,००० टन इस्पात के लिये आर्डर दिये जा रहे हैं।

(ख) और (ग). जापान, हॉलैंड, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, वेस्ट जर्मनी, स्पेन, यू० ए० ए०, फ्रांस, बेल्जियम, नार्वे, स्वीडन और इटली। लागत-भाड़ा सहित इसका औसत दाम ६७५ रुपये प्रति टन है।

Overpayment to Contractors

*54. { Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to