

Deputy Minister said that certain countries have made offers of sale of Viscount aircraft to this country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If Viscount offers have been received in order that we might replace Dakotas—that is the question.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether there is a proposal from Soviet Russia for the sale of a fleet of aircraft and, if the aircraft are not Viscounts, then....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. Dr. Vijaya Ananda.

Dr. Vijaya Ananda: Is there any proposal to re-introduce the night air mail service to Vijayawada as it is an important runway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would not be relevant under this question.

Plastic Bags

*211. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the dangers of re-use of cast-off transparent plastic bags picked up by adults and/or used as play-things by children as recently published in the 'Indian Express' of 13th September, 1960 under 'Letters to the Editor' by one Shri P. C. Nanavaty of Junagadh;

(b) whether any investigation has been made in the matter;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to warn the general public about the dangers of these bags particularly the children?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are taking steps to warn the general public about the possible dangers of the plastic bags.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether it is a fact that there has been investigation in the United States and it has been found to be very dangerous and they have given directives to these bag manufacturers to print some such warning on the manufactured bags; and, if so, whether the Indian Government will also do the same thing?

Shri Karmarkar: We are trying to find out what has happened in the United States. In the meantime, relying on the information available, we are issuing a general warning to all the States to see that the matter becomes known.

Haldia Port

*212. **Shri Inderjit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether land occupied by 62 villages is being acquired for development of Haldia port; and

(b) whether there is any scheme for compensation and/or resettlement of the displaced inhabitants of the villages concerned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Haldia Project is still in the initial stages and several technical details will have to be settled before the scheme is finalised. When the scheme is ready for execution, some land will have to be acquired strictly limited to needs. A preliminary notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, has, however, been issued by the West Bengal Government indicating that land in the Haldia area is likely to be required for the development of a subsidiary port. Such a notification is issued mainly as a precautionary measure with a view to avoid speculation in land values in the area. The area notified is approximately 17.62 square miles. The number of vil-

lages included within this area is 68 but all these villages may not be acquired. No land acquisition proceedings as such have been initiated.

2. Compensation for the land that may be acquired will be paid at the market rates to be determined by the Land Acquisition Collector in the acquisition proceedings. This question will arise only when land is actually acquired for the Haldia Project. The establishment of a new Port in the region may also be expected to open up new avenues of employment to the people of the area.

Shri Inderjit Gupta: A sentence occurs in the statement to the effect that "the establishment of a new Port in the region may also be expected to open up new avenues of employment to the people of the area". Pending the establishment and completion of the new port, whenever this Haldia is worked as an anchorage, will the Ministry consider any scheme whereby the people from the surrounding villages which may be acquired in the future would be given preference in the matter of employment—in those occupations for which they are suitable, of course—in working this anchorage?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is too general, problematical and hypothetical.

Shri Inderjit Gupta: It has already been done last year, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nothing has materialised so far. Anyway, can the hon. Minister answer it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may tell the hon. Member that there is rather a contradiction here in so far as the schemes for employment are concerned. Organised labour of the port demands that the Dock Labour Board scheme should be introduced for this anchorage right now—and that has also delayed the opening of the anchorage. On the other hand, there is a demand—legitimate, understandable—from the local people also. We are trying to provide opportunities for both, as far as possible.

Shri Raghunath Singh: The hon. the Railway Minister is also here. May I know whether the Haldia port will be joined by railway line in the near future?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for the development of the port, not for the linking of the railways!

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: What is the exact system under which the labourers are now recruited at Haldia port; and may I know whether local people are given preference or the Dock Labour Board registration scheme is given preference?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not so many questions combined in one.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Or is it being worked by some contractors under a scheme of their own?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Last year the anchorage was worked with the assistance of a contractor who supplied the labour.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: How many acres of land are being acquired for the development of Haldia port; and will Government make it compulsory while acquiring such lands that those affected land-owners and agricultural labourers should be given preference in the services there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For the present the notice that has been issued under section 4 of the relevant Act has indicated an area of 17.62 square miles. But that is not the area that might ultimately be acquired. That will depend upon the technical advice of experts, and I believe we shall acquire only the minimum that is needed. So far as the question of employment is concerned, that goes without saying: it will open up employment opportunities to the people of the villages surrounding.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's concern seems to be whether those who are displaced would be given preference in employment.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That can be borne in mind; I cannot give any assurance about it.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know if the displaced persons have been taken in the construction works of the port and if so, what is the percentage?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nobody has been displaced so far.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Can the Minister give the House any rough idea as to when they expect the scheme for the port to be finalised?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Certain technical investigations are proceeding in order to assess the draft capacity of the two passages and we have got an expert from the United Nations Technical Assistance Board for that and also another expert for hydraulic research. Both these experts are engaged on these investigations and when they submit their reports, we can finalise the project report in the light of the recommendations they make. Then alone can a firm time-limit be given.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether any assessment has been made about the number of persons who will be displaced?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has no idea. Next question.

Export of Foodgrains from Orissa to West Bengal

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*213. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
 Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:

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

(a) whether any restrictions were imposed on export of foodgrains from Orissa to West Bengal after Orissa was affected by floods in the month of August this year;

(b) if not, what quantity of foodgrains has been exported so far from Orissa since 1st August, 1960; and

(c) the total quantity of foodgrains exported from Orissa to West Bengal so far since after the formation of the Eastern Food Zone?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) No, Sir.

(b) About 23 thousand tons of rice and 18 thousand tons of paddy moved from Orissa to West Bengal from 1st August till the end of October, 1960.

(c) About 161 thousand tons of rice and 249 thousand tons of paddy were exported from Orissa to West Bengal up to the end of October, 1960, since the formation of the Eastern Rice Zone.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government approached the Central Government for releasing some quantity of food from the Central reserves because their paddy crops were damaged due to the floods and if so, what was the response of the Government to this request?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to rice, the problem of the Orissa Government is to dispose of its own stocks. They, however, requested the Central Government to supply 2,000 tons of wheat besides the normal quantity of 2,600 tons of wheat.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government is not particular about exports from Orissa in view of the easier food situation there? Do the Government propose to release, in view of this, Orissa Government of the responsibility of exporting foodgrains to West Bengal under the east zone food scheme?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The complaint of the Orissa Government is that since production in West Bengal is quite satisfactory in the current year, the West Bengal traders are not lifting stocks from Orissa so that they want an outlet outside the zone. There is no question of disturbing the zone at present. The Orissa Government is not making any request for scrapping the zone.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Has it come to the notice of the Minister that during the floods the people