

**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

demanding coarse rice which was not available from the stocks of the Government of Orissa as they had only fine and superfine rice and all coarse rice had been exported?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is not correct. The Orissa Government has at present got stocks of about 21,000 tons of rice and about 8,000 tons of paddy. There might have been temporary difficulties due to floods but it is not correct to say that rice was not available.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Is it not a fact that when this zone was formed, some unusual restrictions were put on the movement of foodgrains obtainable in the other food zones of the country? If so, what are those restrictions and what effect they had on the working of this zone?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Some restrictions were made. The Orissa Government was enabled to make a levy up to 20 per cent. That levy has now been stopped. No rice is being procured because it is not necessary. There had also been some restrictions put on the large-scale movement to West Bengal by regulating priorities for rail movements. But these had also been removed.

**Dr. Vijaya Ananda:** How much rice is being sent to Orissa from Andhra? Has it increased since the floods?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It cannot be exported to Orissa.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** What is the approximate loss of foodgrains in Orissa due to the floods? Is there any scarcity felt in the export of foodgrains to West Bengal?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Final estimates have not yet been made. But it has been explained a few days back on the floor of this House that in spite of two successive floods, the overall production in Orissa would be more or less of the same order as in the previous years.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** It is clear that the food situation in Orissa and

Bengal is good. May I know whether as a result of this satisfactory production, the prices in West Bengal and Orissa have come down?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Prices have come down considerably in West Bengal and even in Orissa it is less. The prices have come down by Rs. 2/ Rs. 5 per maund.

#### Sethusamudram Project

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\*214. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri B. Das Gupta:**

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

(a) whether **Captain J. R. Davies**, Deputy Principal Officer, Marine Survey Office, United Kingdom, who has been requested to advise the Government on the navigational requirements of the Sethusamudram project has since submitted his report;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the report; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when the report is likely to be received?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 61].

**Shri T. E. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the Government have examined the recommendations and have come to any decision with regard to this project in the Third Plan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** These recommendations are under examination and we have proposed for our intermediate port development scheme a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs, for survey etc.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** There have already been two surveys and two reports—Ramaswami Mudaliar Committee report and the present report.