

facing a serious situation because of Britain's proposed entry into the European common Market, will the Government take some active steps to try and persuade these steamer companies to reconsider the question of tea freights?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** In view of the fact that there has been a simultaneous increase in the freight rates of tea, not only from our ports but also from the ports in Ceylon and Straits, I think the competitive position of our tea export is not prejudicially affected so far as the question of freight increase on tea is concerned.

#### Durgapur Thermal Power Station

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\*386. { **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**  
**Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri N. M. Deb:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether No. 1 generator of the Durgapur Thermal Power Station broke down on the 10th May, 1961;

(b) the reasons for the breakdown;

(c) the number of breakdowns in the plant since its installation;

(d) the loss suffered due to breakdowns; and

(e) the effect of breakdowns on production capacity of the power station?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Heavy leakage in superheater tube.

(c) Nine.

(d) Necessary repairs entailed by these break-downs were undertaken by the contractors concerned at their own cost and hence the Corporation did not suffer any direct loss.

(e) This unit was being run at an output of 50.55 MW. Production to this extent was affected for the period of each break-down.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** After how many days of its commission, did this plant get out of order?

**Shri Hathi:** It was actually on trial and not on commission.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Is it due to the defect in machine or due to bad handling.

**Shri Hathi:** There were some defects and I have mentioned them. There was some damage to the generator. But the sets were not actually handed over by the contractors. They were with them and they were on trial. So, the cost had to be borne by the contractor.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** In view of the fact that all these nine breakdowns at Durgapur have been due to defects in machinery all of which had been supplied by two or three West German firms, will the Government seriously consider whether they should continue to import the machinery from these particular firms in future for this power project?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know whether the terms of the contract provide compensation for future breakdowns up to a certain period or whether we have taken them over without any such stipulation?

**Shri Hathi:** We have not taken them over yet. There is a guarantee for a particular period and the cost will be borne by them if there is any damage in that period.

**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** May I know whether there is any consultant engineer and if so what is his opinion about this breakdown?

**Shri Hathi:** We have appointed a committee to look into this. I may say that this was not with the DVC: this was with the contractor. They have not handed it over so far and so the question whether it is the fault of the engineer or not does not arise.