

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Is there any possibility of increasing the number of minor ports in the Second Five Year Plan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Shri Nanjudayya, Port Commissioner and Administrative Officer of Vizag Port was appointed to go into the question of development of these minor ports. As per the recommendations contained in his report we arrived at certain conclusions and, I think, we will have to stick to them for the present.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member wanted to know whether there is any chance or prospect of any more minor ports being included in the Second Five Year Plan.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think in the Second Five Year Plan it may not be possible.

**Shri Keshava:** May I know whether the development of these ports is also a part and parcel of the bigger scheme for development of other small and minor ports in the western parts, like Batakhal and Mallepy?

**Mr. Speaker:** In what State?

**Shri Keshava:** In the Western coast.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are two or three States.

**Shri Keshava:** I am talking of Mysore State.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have got certain plans State-wise for the development of minor ports, and we have got certain recommendations for the development of certain ports in the Mysore State also.

**Shri Keshava:** May I know what percentage of the total does the Centre contemplate for development of minor ports?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have earmarked a sum of Rs. 5 crores to be advanced by way of loans for the development of these ports.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I enquire whether any work has been started in any of the ports that have been

mentioned by the hon. Minister, and whether out of the estimated cost of Rs. 47.85 lakhs any amount has been advanced by the Centre?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** To begin with, I may say, in the first year we have advanced a loan of Rs. 63,000 to the Kerala State Government.

#### 'Liberty' Ships

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\*34. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**

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

(a) whether the Government of India approached the U. S. Government for the purchase of "Liberty" ships; and

(b) what progress has been achieved in the negotiations?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) Negotiations are still being carried on.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I know the terms on which negotiations are being carried on for the purchase of these ships?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We are proposing to purchase twelve "Liberty" ships. The terms depend upon the legislation that may be sponsored in the U.S. Senate to that effect.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member evidently wants to know the price of each.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The estimated price of a "Liberty" ship is Rs. 35 lakhs.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I know whether, as seen in papers, there is any stipulation that the ships should not be used for continental and trans-oceanic service?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There is a stipulation that the "Liberty" ships when acquired will be used for coastal trade.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** May I know how old these ships are?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** 12 to 16 years.

**Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know how many "Liberty" ships the Government of India contemplate to buy in the course of this year?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have already mentioned that it is 12.

#### **Tube-wells in Punjab**

\*35. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tube-wells allotted to Punjab under the 1952 T.C.A. Scheme;

(b) where all of them have been constructed and started working;

(c) whether 41 tube-wells constructed in the Samrala area of Ludhiana District of the Punjab under 1952 T.C.A. Scheme had been working since they were installed; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) 355.

(b) All the 355 tube-wells have been drilled, out of which two bores have had to be abandoned. 338 tube-wells have been completed with pumping sets, 290 energised and 177 are actually working.

(c) The number of tube-wells constructed in the Samrala area is 94. 56 of these are working.

(d) 38 tube-wells in the Samrala area have not been working for the following reasons:—

(i) The Zamindars consider that the present irrigation rate of three annas nine pies per unit of electricity consumed in running the tube-wells as too high; and

(ii) There has been some delay in the construction of water courses on some of the tube-wells, though the work is now going ahead.

**Shri Bahadur Singh:** May I know the approximate cost of construction and the cost of energising each tube-well?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I want notice to answer that question.

**Shri Bahadur Singh:** As the hon. Minister has said that there are certain tube-wells which are not working and which are not being made use of by the cultivators, may I know whether the Government of India is contemplating to arrive at any decision regarding these wells so that the cultivators can make use of them?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** These tube-wells are sanctioned out of the Aid Programme and the rupee counterpart is provided by the Government of India. Tube-wells are assigned to the different States and it is for the State Governments to construct tube-wells and to work them. In fact, we took up the matter with the State Governments, and now, the State Government in question has appointed a committee whose report is under consideration.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** May I know whether the Government propose to give any help or grant so that the working cost of these tube-wells may be lowered and water may thus be made economic to the peasant?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is no proposal for giving any grant, but it is for the State Government to consider it.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know what is the average acreage of land brought under irrigation by the tube-wells and what is the capacity for irrigation by these tube-wells?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** On the average, it is 300 to 400 acres.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** But at present, how much land has been brought under irrigation by tube-wells?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I must ask for notice.