

the requirements of Naval Architects for some time to come

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether, in view of the importance of accelerating the pace of this country during the coming year in the matter of the Navy, the Government has considered the question of training the lower architects who are now engaged in the manufacture of small craft on the sea-side and taking advantage of their experience and training?

Shri Raj Bahadur: What we need is, expert architects of a superior type who know the architecture of ship-building. Therefore, we have so devised our system of training that we shall be having a training course for 12 trainees, who can take the bachelor's degree in naval architecture.

Shri Joachim Alva: The Yugoslavians offered us facilities for ship-building here, and the British came the other day. I want to know why we are concerned only with the training at Kharagpur, instead of sending more students abroad for training in naval architecture?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There was a committee appointed specifically for the purpose of training and as a result of the acceptance of the recommendation of the committee, this institute has come into being, and the requirements for the moment have been estimated to be 12. I think it will suffice for the time being.

Dead Fish in Arabian Sea

†
 7928. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri P. C. Bose:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri D. P. Singh:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of dead fish were seen in the Arabian Sea, off Kerala's coast in June and July, 1957; and

(b) whether the Government of India have investigated the cause of marine fish perishing in the sea?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes, according to information received from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

(b) The available information is being studied by fishery biologists and at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Stations at Mandapam and Kozhikode.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the information so far available, is there any indication that there has been an epidemic?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No, Sir. We are in touch with the FAO authorities since it has been reported by a great scientist of Russia, and we cannot simply ignore it also. The information that we have at present available with us is, a notification sent by the regional branch of the FAO, Delhi and it has been reported by a Russian scientist that so many fish have died in such and such an area. The latitude and the longitude etc., have been given by that scientist. The figures were given.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether any estimate has been made about the quantity of the dead fish—whether it is available with the Government of India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: According to the scientist, it comes to about a year's catch of the world's fish, that is, it is nearly 20 million tons. But we are in touch with the FAO and are trying to get as much information as possible and as early as possible.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know whether in view of the alarming figures given by the hon. Minister the Government of India are taking aid from other countries in the matter of investigation of the cases of mass destruction of fish.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The FAO is the proper and appropriate authority, and through them we want to proceed. We do not have, at present, facilities to go 300 miles off-shore and estimate it. We do not have fishing vessels to go 300 or 400 miles on the sea for this purpose.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has the Government any reason to suppose that these dead fish were not from the Arabian sea itself but that they came floating from some other region?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The whole thing is under investigation. The scientists are of the opinion that this sort of death is not uncommon because of the lack of oxygen in certain waters, even mass scale deaths of fish occur a number of times. This is not the first time. But whether this particular type of death in that area is because of this reason or whether it is by various other causes—whether there are other reasons or only natural reasons—we have to find out.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: I want to know whether Government have any idea so far, as to how this will affect the fisheries of the west coast for some time to come?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It has not yet affected, in this season the west coast. This is now off-season for fishing there. This is the monsoon season. But there are certain complaints from West Bengal that they are not able to catch more fish in the sea. West Bengal is far away from the area now referred to.

Economy on Railways

*799. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the important measures adopted by the Railway Board to give effect to the strictest economy in Railway expenditure and to ensure constant vigilance as stated in their Press report of 1st July, 1957; and

(b) what saving in money and personnel is estimated?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 122]

(b) It is too early yet to assess what savings are likely to accrue from the various measures adopted during the past several months and intensified recently. It may be mentioned, however, that one post of Director and three posts of Joint Directors have very recently been surrendered in the Board's establishment (saving of about Rs 90 000 per annum).

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if there are any reasons for not associating non-officials in this committee as has been done by all other Ministries especially the Finance Ministry?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I am not aware of non-officials being associated in other Ministries, but in our Ministry we give plenty of weight to any suggestion that is made by any non-official.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I hope the hon. Minister is aware that on the floor of this House, the Finance Minister gave details as to how the non-officials have been associated and how teams of officers have been sent out for the particular project. May I know if there are any particular reasons why the Ministry of Railways feels that the association of non-officials is not necessary and that they could do only with additional Members and Directors?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I do not think there is necessity of going in that way in the Railway Ministry. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member himself said that the Finance Ministry gave the details of the team of officers with