

Shri Radha Raman: May I know which of the ports mentioned in the statement will be taken up first for improvement?

Shri Alagesan: Various State Governments concerned are taking up improvements in all these ports.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if a sufficient number of Indian experts are available to do this job or if some foreign experts will be invited?

Shri Alagesan: It is done by Indian experts.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether any of the minor ports in Travancore-Cochin will be included in this construction programme?

Shri Alagesan: Yes. The statement.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly look into the statement.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Andhra State has pressed.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The same thing with Andhra.

Shri B. S. Murthy: You wanted me to put the questions clearly, and slowly. I have just begun the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is clear. It has been already answered.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Andhra State has pressed on the Central Government to take up the Kakinada minor port at an early date and if so what action has been taken?

Shri Alagesan: Kakinada and Masulipatnam are included in the programme.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Tuticorin is included? I had no occasion to see the statement. I do not know whether it is included.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should not the hon. Member go to the Notice Office and find out from the statement?

Shri C. R. Chowdary: What is the estimated cost of development of the Kakinada and Masulipatnam ports separately?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is cost also given in the statement?

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice of the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: 1321.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the previous question is concerned, a number of hon. Members are interested. I suppose no hon. Member whose State is entirely inside the Indian Union will ask for minor ports. So far as the details are concerned, they may ask the hon. Minister and I am sure he will give the particulars.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

*1321. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some bogus claims were preferred on blank railway freight receipts which had been lost from a station of the North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps that Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cases were handed over to the Police by the North Eastern Railway, but the Police have since reported that no evidence was found against the men suspected to put them on trial.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the name of the Railway station where this incident occurred and the amount of money involved in these bogus claims?

Shri Alagesan: The station is Haiya Ghat on the North-Eastern Railway. They preferred claims under three receipts. They were handed over to the police. Nothing was paid.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the total amount of the receipts?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have that information.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No, no. What is the amount for which bogus claims were preferred?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what I asked for.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: He has not given the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has not got the details.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That was the question.

Shri Alagesan: They were bogus receipts. They were handed over to the police. Nothing was paid.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question does not relate to the amount.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The hon. Minister said that the cases were handed over to the police, that no evidence was forthcoming and so cases were not started. May I know whether any departmental action has been taken against the officers?

Shri Alagesan: The Station master and the Assistant Station master concerned have been censured.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I could not hear the reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Station Master and the Assistant Station Master have been warned, is it?

Shri Alagesan: Censured.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Do the Government think that censuring was enough punishment for a man who made a bogus claim for money against the Railway authorities?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not the Station master that made the claim.

Shri Nambiar: He is not in the picture.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the Government did not know the identity of the person who put in the claim, because the case could not be proceeded with?

Shri Alagesan: The claim was made on these forged receipts by some merchants. We handed over the receipts to the police, but they said that they bought it in perfect good faith, and the police did not find any evidence to proceed against them. They might have purchased it from somebody else and the police are not able to trace them.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know the names of the stations from which these blank receipts were lost, and whether proper information was given by the station authorities concerned?

Shri Alagesan: I gave the name of the station. That is Haiya Ghat.

PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT

***1322. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an order for purchase of modern aircrafts has been placed with a foreign firm;

(b) what type of aircrafts are being purchased;

(c) what will be the cost of each aircraft; and

(d) whether any officer of the Government of India has been asked to inspect the aircraft before actual purchase is made?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Air India International have placed orders abroad for new aircraft. I lay on the Table a statement giving the information required by the hon. Member. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 83.]

(d) Under the contracts with the aircraft manufacturing firms, Air India International have made arrangements for inspection by a representative of theirs during the course of manufacture of the aircraft.