

Mr. Speaker: May be; but these are not within the scope of the question. Next question.

Shri Velayudhan: It is very important.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; it is a matter of opinion. Next question.

MADRAS HARBOUR

*1486. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for the expansion of the Madras Harbour is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) whether any amount has been sanctioned for the scheme and if so, how much?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The Scheme consists of two Stages. The first stage comprises the following works at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.15 crores:

- (i) Conversion of the North quay into a general cargo berth plus a passenger depot;
- (ii) Construction of a new collier berth south of the East Quay to be called South Quay IV; and
- (iii) Construction of an additional berth for handling ore and non-dangerous oils to be called South Quay III; and construction of a new spending beach under South Quays III and IV and a small reclaimed area for storing ore between the eastern breakwater and the Sand Screen.

The Second Stage contemplates the construction of a wet dock capable of accommodating four ships of 600 ft. in length drawing 30 ft. each and of ancillary facilities.

This Stage of the Scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4.90 crores.

(c) Yes. Rs. 1.15 crores for Part A of the Scheme. The expenditure will be met by Madras Port Trust from their own resources.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: Is it a fact that by this expansion of the Madras harbour the world famous Marina beach is going to be affected adversely?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not our information.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the work of expanding the harbour has already commenced?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It has not yet commenced.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know how long it will take to complete the work? There must be a time limit.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I cannot give precise information on that point. But, it will be possible to answer that question when the work has actually commenced.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that there was a huge volume of opposition to expanding the harbour towards the south in the city of Madras?

Shri L. B. Shastri: About that, of course, I cannot say anything. But the Ports Technical Committee which considered the requirements for Major Port development went into this case and they have made this recommendation and on the basis of that recommendation we propose to proceed ahead.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Minister aware that in the Legislative Assembly of Madras there was a question raised on this, and the Government promised to communicate the views of the Members there to the Central Government, as regards the damage that would be caused if the port were extended towards the south?

Mr. Speaker: The point is whether they have received any communication from the Madras Government as promised on the floor of the House.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not know about that; but I am prepared to look into it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the development scheme of the Cochin port is inter-connected with the development scheme of the Madras Port?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not think it is inter-connected. They will be extended and improved separately.

Shri Venkataraman: Are the Government aware of an equally very strong opinion that the Madras harbour is not able to accommodate all the vessels calling and so it is absolutely necessary to extend the harbour?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; it is only giving information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the scheme being executed according to the recommendations of the Major Port Development Board or has it been altered?

Shri L. B. Shastri: So far as I am aware, it is being implemented in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

TELLICHERRY-MAKUT RAILWAY LINK

*1487. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to connect Tellicherry by rail with Mysore through Coorg;

(b) if so, why it has not been taken up;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the editorials in the "Mail" of Madras and the "Mathrabhumi" of Calicut on the need for such a railway line;

(d) whether it is a fact that survey of the proposed line was once made from Tellicherry to Makut; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not proceeding further in the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Adequate justification could not be found for the construction of the line.

(c) In the absence of the date of publication, it has not been possible to trace out these editorials.

(d) Yes.

(e) After examination of the survey reports it was at the time decided to shelve the project on financial grounds. The area is at present well served by roads on which buses ply.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: In view of the changed circumstances existing today, may I know whether Government propose to reconsider the question of linking Tellicherry with Mysore?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government is aware that there is greater traffic between Mysore and Tellicherry via Coorg?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, the hon. Member may be knowing about it better than myself.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that the route between these two places passes through hilly tract and the hill products have to be taken to the cities and ports, may I know whether the

Government would consider the matter again in view of the changed situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. These are all giving information and making suggestions.

Shri Velayudhan 708E—

Mr. Speaker: Does he really want any information or has he only got some more arguments to advance?

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that such a line is very necessary for the agricultural and industrial development of Malabar, Coorg and a portion of Mysore?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am sorry I cannot allow these questions.

TAPIOCA

*1489. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tapioca has been experimented as a substitute of rice;

(b) whether it was first experimented in the State of Travancore-Cochin and with what results;

(c) what are the different edible preparations from Tapioca;

(d) whether it is being experimented in Assam and with what result;

(e) whether Government propose to extend the same to other States as well; and

(f) what aid for this experiment the Governments of Assam and Travancore are getting annually from the Government of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, certain experiments have been carried out by the Food Technological Research Institute Bangalore, of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) A small experimental demonstration plant was put up in Trivandrum early in 1951 for showing the method of production of synthetic grains using tapioca as the raw material. It is reported that while some persons like the product, there were others who did not care for it. The results are, therefore, inconclusive.

(c) Dry chips, tapioca starch or flour, tapioca suji, sago.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Nil.