

Several other technical points were raised which the C.W.P.C. has clarified. The State Government are considering this point.

Dr. Rama Rao: We were informed by the hon. Minister some time ago that the Central Government is of the definite opinion that this Budameru Reservoir is essential and serves the purpose. Now, where does the difficulty lie in going on with the work?

Shri Hathi: As the hon. Member knows, when the Minister met the members from the State concerned, the experts from the Central Water and Power Commission said that the schemes were feasible and sound ones. But in view of the State Government's reply that nearly three-fourths of the area will be covered by the diversion scheme and it will be better if a comprehensive scheme for Kolleru is taken up, it will be of greater benefit to the area concerned. Now the Central Water and Power Commission has suggested some technical points and clarifications which the State Government are considering. Till we receive a reply, no definite decision can be reached.

Merchant Navy Rating School

*19. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 738 on the 3rd December, 1956, and state when the new school for Merchant Navy Ratings proposed to be started in Cochin will commence functioning?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Details of the scheme are still under examination and no decision has so far been taken.

Shri Matthen: Is the hon. Minister aware of the announcement made by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri a few months ago that a school for the training of merchant navy ratings will be started at Cochin and of the hopes created and also subsequent

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The whole question is being examined and the Director General, Shipping has been asked to send in his recommendations. We have at present three institutions for training of ratings and we find that the ratings produced in these three institutions are enough for the present work. We have no arrangement for doubling the work of training, and the question is under examination whether Cochin is a proper place.

Shri Matthen: Am I to understand whether this is going back on the announcement made by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Not in the least.

Shri Joachim Alva: In drawing up a scheme for merchant navy rating school, does Government view the whole of the West Coast in its proper perspective in the sense that Karwar, Bhatkal, Kunte, Malpe and Mangalore, important fishing centres where matriculate fishing boys have no avenue for extra activity?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: All factors are taken into consideration.

Shri Matthen: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Kerala Government has offered to contribute not less than a lakh of rupees towards the building of this school?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am personally not aware of that, but as I have said, the whole thing is being examined from all aspects and the hon. Member need not be apprehensive that the scheme has been dropped.

Direct Coach from Bikaner to Ajmer

*20. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to consider the feasibility of providing a direct coach from Bikaner to Ajmer on the regular train services in view of the existing traffic which, with the merger of