

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question pertains to the designing and that has been done by the department. We have invited various concerns who undertake this type of business to let us have their estimates and also to give alternative designs, if they can. I think in all probability it will be done by the tendering firms.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it has been referred to manufacturers only or to contractors also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think the manufacturers by themselves can come and instal the various types of equipment. Some other persons would take up the work of installation.

Shri Subodh Hanada: May I know whether any other alternative designs have been received by the Development Adviser for the mechanisation of this port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Alternative designs should come, if any, from the tenderers or the firms which have been invited to do so. The original design is that of the Development Adviser.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether any of the firms have submitted their replies?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Some replies have been received; there is no significant change in the designs and specifications suggested by anyone of them.

Air Freight Rates

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*1182. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 292 on the 16th February, 1959 and state the progress made so far in implementing the recommendations made by the Air Transport Council concerning reasonable freight rates?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): The Indian

Airlines Corporation have stated that they are now completing computation of revised basic freight rates and hope to introduce them before the end of the current financial year.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how our air freight rates, after the revision to which the hon. Deputy Minister referred, will compare with the air freight rates obtaining in other countries of the world?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have stated that they have not yet completed the study. I have no figures before me as to how the changes will take place. It is rather difficult to compare the rates here with the rates in foreign countries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: A committee was appointed sometime back to go into the revision of air freight rates. I want to know why there has been so much delay in doing this kind of work. It is of a highly financial nature involving lot of revenue to the Airlines Corporation.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): If I may intervene at this stage, it is not easy to collect figures about rates in various countries. We are trying to get the figures and when we get them, we will give them to the hon. Member or place them on the Table of the House. There is no use asking questions when figures are not available.

Shri Tangamani: The recommendations have already been made. On a previous occasion, we were told the revision is likely to be finalised by the first quarter of this financial year. May I know the reason why it has been shifted by another six or seven months?

Shri Mohiuddin: This is a very complicated question. The changing of freight rates might involve either loss to the Corporation by reduced revenues, or the revenues may increase if they are lucky. For example, the cargo carried by the Corporation

in 1955-56 was 54,000 tons. In 1958-59, it had gone down to 50,000 tons. They are also afraid that with any change in rates, there may be further loss of cargo to the Corporation. So, they are very careful. I know there has been delay, but we must give them some time.

Utilisation of Waters in D.V.C. Area

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*1182. { Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether any decisions have been taken on the report of the Team appointed by the Planning Commission regarding the full and proper utilisation of waters in the DVC area and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi). (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix IV, annexure No 2]

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know the reasons for the delay and short-fall in the utilisation of water, since storing of water in the dam had begun as long ago as 1952-53?

Shri Hathi: The team has given certain reasons and the recommendations have been conveyed to the West Bengal Government. As the reply shows, the team was appointed by the Planning Commission and the execution is to be done by the West Bengal Government.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether the Government have finalised the programme of the canal system for both Tulaya and Konar dams and when this canal system will be completed?

Shri Hathi: That is not for the Government to do, that is for the DVC to consider.

Shri Hem Barua: The statement says that the West Bengal Government has passed the West Bengal Irrigation (Imposition of Water Rate for the DVC Waters) Act. May I know whether the recommendations of the committee to the effect that water rates are to be charged after two or three years, they are to be charged by stages and they are to be collected in full rates only in the sixth year have been included in that piece of legislation or not?

Shri Hathi: This is a question about levy. The hon. Member is asking about the water rates. They are different things.

Shri Kunhan: What is the total irrigation capacity of canals under the DVC and what was the area irrigated in 1958?

Shri Hathi: The total area to be irrigated is about 973,000 acres. In 1958-59 five lakhs acres will be ready.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any irrigation is done by DVC waters in Bihar and if so.

Shri Hathi: No, nothing.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: If not, why not? Originally it was estimated to irrigate some land in Bihar. May I know whether any step has been taken to irrigate that part?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said "No". Regarding "why not", it could be answered at some other time.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the recommendations of the committee that farm channels—that is the responsibility of the farmers—should be organised on co-operative basis, that is being implemented or not?

Shri Hathi: As I said, the implementation will have to be done by the West Bengal Government. The committee have recommended that it should be done by co-operatives or, if blocks are larger, it should be done by the project and then recovered from the farmers.