

a particular hotel for a particular charge?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not think it was related to the rates of charges of hotel rooms as such. The criteria related to certain amenities, facilities, furnishing, equipment etc. That was very well laid down. I may add to my reply to the last question that regional hotel associations were also represented whenever the committee went and was in a particular region and the State Governments also were likewise represented to whichever State the Committee went for that purpose.

### Haldia Port

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- \*331. { **Shri Umanath:**  
 { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
 { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
 { **Shri P. R. Chakravarti:**

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some difficulties in setting up Haldia Port;

(b) if so, the nature of difficulties and steps taken by Government to remove them; and

(c) whether any World Bank loan to cover the foreign exchange need of the Project has been secured?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not yet.

**Shri Umanath:** This question is coming before Parliament off and on. What are the reasons for the delay and what are the obstructions that stand in the way of selecting a site as far as this port is concerned?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I am grateful to the House for taking keen interest time and again in this particular matter. But despite that gratefulness it will not be possible for me to ensure

that the Haldia project would be completed all at once. It is a big project. It has to be duly taken in hand and completed. The work has been started.

**Shri Umanath:** My question was whether the site has been selected. If it has not been selected, what are the reasons for that?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The site has been selected. Haldia is the site for the new port.

**Shri Umanath:** Can the Government say with certainty that this whole project will be completed within the Third Plan period?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It will take time. We hope that it will be completed by 1967. That is what we hope for at the moment. But we have not lost any time in taking the necessary steps.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** It has come out in the newspapers that the West Bengal Government has requested the Centre to bear the cost of development of about 200 acres of land for it. It is said that they have sought an *ex-gratia* grant of Rs. 813 lakhs towards land development. I would like to know the reaction of the Central Government to this.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The matter is under consideration.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** What is the extent of the World Bank loan that is going to be sought for it and what will be the foreign exchange part of that?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The port requires many things, that is, equipment, machinery etc., for which we have to have foreign exchange. Out of a total estimated cost of Rs. 30 crores as much as Rs. 14 crores will be required by way of foreign exchange and for that we will have to approach the World Bank.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is the finalization of the World Bank loan going to be dependent upon the approval by the World Bank experts of the river

survey reports at Haldia and, if so, what is the reason for the delay—these reports have been submitted long ago—in the World Bank giving its opinion?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I think the hon. Member is referring to the hydraulic studies which have been undertaken, completed and sent to the World Bank. He may be glad to know that even the World Bank is satisfied so far as the hydraulic aspect of the proposed port is concerned.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the foreign exchange component of the cost of this project has so far been calculated?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have already said that it will be Rs. 14 crores out of the estimated cost of about Rs. 30 crores.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** In reply to part (a) of the question, the hon. Minister said, "No". Is it not a fact that in the newspapers there appeared reports of some difficulties to the effect that there will be silting in the estuaries of the River Hooghly; if so, what is being done? There was the recommendation of the World Bank Committee to acquire a dredger for it. May I know whether this has been ordered or not?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** An order has been placed for an estuarian dredger. So far as the difficulty about siltation is concerned, the studies made have established that 28 ft. draught will be available throughout the year and a draught of 30 ft. for 346 days in a year; even 35 ft. draught will be available for 39 days in the year. After some dredging, it is hoped, we may be assured of a draught of 35 ft. for 365 days round the year.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** In view of the national importance of this port, may I know whether the Government have assured itself of effective steps to bring this into operation as early as possible?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is exactly our objective and this has been included in the Third Plan; some provision has been made for that.

### Rice

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Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
 Shri R. G. Dubey:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shri Umanath:  
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
 Shri Maheswar Naik:  
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
 Shri Mohan Swarup:  
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
 Shri Dimen Bhattacharya:  
 Shrimati Renuka Ray:  
 \*332. } Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:  
 Shri D. D. Mantri:  
 Shri Heda:  
 Shri Tridib Kumar  
 Chaudhuri:  
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:  
 Shri Bade:  
 Shri Kachhavalaya:  
 Shri B. K. Das:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:  
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
 Shri Subodh Hansda:  
 Shri Kajrolkar:

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

(a) the latest position as on the 1st October, 1963 in respect of the stocks, availability and the price of rice in different parts of the country;

(b) whether any fair price shops were opened during the last quarter;

(c) if so, how many and in which States; and

(d) whether any representations have been received from rice mills in Assam and other States complaining of shortages in rice availability?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Infor-