

Haldia Channel

8907. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge expenditure in the preceding three years, the Haldia Channel has not shown any improvement;

(b) whether before entrusting dredging to the foreign firm any study was made about the capability of the firm and likely cost of improvement in the draft for Haldia channel;

(c) whether the contract entered into with the foreign firm had a specific mention about the likely time and the quality of the work; and

(d) whether Government propose to enquire into the causes of delay, excess expenditure and low level of quality of work done by the firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (d). The dredging of the Haldia Channel was taken up after a study of the cost estimate of the scheme and after ascertaining capability of the contractors. Because of the hydraulic conditions of the river Hooghly with adverse effects like heavy re-shoaling or beneficial effects like scour, it is difficult to establish a direct relationship between the dredging effort and the depth achieved and for this reason the contracts were on time rate basis, with constant review of performance.

The contract for dredging of the Outer Estuary was for a period of 12 months starting on 6.5.74. This was terminated on 30.4.75 when the requisite draughts were achieved.

Contract dredging in the Inner Estuary was similarly on time rate basis, commencing in November 1973. This contract was extended upto December, 1975, till the Ministry's

own Dredger MOT-VI was available to take-over. During the period of this contract, the dredger lifted a total quantity of 20.08 million cubic meters of spoils and this performance of dredging effort which was continuously evaluated throughout the currency of the contract, was considered satisfactory.

The dredging effort in the Inner Estuary by the contractors dredger and one of the Ministry's own dredgers additionally deployed from February 1975 did not produce the required improvements in draughts owing to very heavy reshooling. Both the dredgers of the Ministry, namely, MOT-V and MOT-VI (now belonging to the public sector undertaking, Dredging Corporation of India) are still working in the Inner Estuary.

As the failure to achieve expected draught in the Inner Estuary is not attributable to any fault of the contractors, the question of any inquiry into the matter does not arise.

Reservation of Posts in Services

8908. SHRI AMAR ROY PRAHDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of autonomous bodies/organisations/offices/institutions under the Central Government where the orders regarding reservation of posts in services for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have so far been made applicable and implemented also;

(b) the names of autonomous bodies/organisations/offices/institutions where these orders have neither been adopted nor implemented so far; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c). All the offices of the Central Government are required to follow the Government orders regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As regards autonomous bodies/institutions

etc., the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned were asked to issue instructions to such bodies/institutions under their control to follow the scheme of reservations as applicable to posts/services under Government. Information about names of autonomous bodies/institutions asked for is being collected from all Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Applications for Mini Paper Plants

8909. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of applications received by Government from Mini Paper Plants Units under the 'Incentive Scheme' and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): There is no specific 'Incentive Scheme' for mini Paper Plants Units. However, it has been decided to permit import of second hand equipment for small paper plants under a scheme announced by a Press Note dated 31st March 1978. No application have been received so far under this scheme. Small paper mills who use secondly raw materials are also eligible for certain excise concessions.

Visit of West German Experts to Thermal Plants

8910. SHRI G. S. REDDI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether West German experts visited Thermal plants in India;

(b) if so, what were their recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A team of experts from West Germany had visited three thermal power plants in India during October-November, 1977. Their recommendations were received in April

this year and are presently being studied by the Central Electricity Authority and the concerned Power stations.

The report has drawn attention to the deficiencies in water chemistry in power stations as well as the need to improve standards of cleanliness in the power stations and has made specific recommendations in these areas. The report has stressed the importance of selecting the right type of personnel for manning the thermal power stations and the need to post only experienced staff for commissioning new power stations. The report has also laid great stress on the need to improve maintenance of process control instrumentation. It has also brought out the importance of analysing the equipment failures.

There are a number of other technical recommendations covering the various aspects of functioning of the power stations, the equipment, inputs into generation, operation and maintenance services, selection and training of personnel etc. These are being studied in the Central Electricity Authority. Discussions are also being organised with concerned power station authorities to enable the latter to appreciate the recommendations in the proper perspective and facilitate their implementation.

Licences for manufacture of Mini Cars

8911. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some manufacturers of mini car have applied to the Government for letter of intent;

(b) how many of them were granted the licences and how many amongst them have actually produced small cars;

(c) is it a fact that Sunrise Auto Industries Ltd., Bangalore have already manufactured a three wheeler mini car called BADAL; and

(d) if so, whether Government authorities have tested its viability, capacity and the sale price?