

Shri Alagesan: I am not aware. I do not know with respect to what particular scheme that survey was conducted. I shall make enquiries.

Transport Difficulties

*1354. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proceedings of the recent meeting of the Export Advisory Council at which the representative of the Associated Chamber of Commerce observed that the Transport position is an important factor for the fall in export earnings; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to pay more attention to the surface transport by making it more economic and efficient?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Steps are being taken to ensure the co-ordinated development of all forms of Transport viz., Rail, road and sea.

Shri Matthen: May I know what are the important and concrete steps taken so far or are proposed to be taken?

Shri Alagesan: The major thing is that rail capacity available being insufficient to carry the quantum of traffic that will be generated in the course of the Second Plan period, we have to devise ways by which road transport can come and fill the gap. With a view to achieve that, as hon. Members are aware, we have recently passed a Bill also. That will enable more trucks and buses being put on inter State routes. We have also considered this question in the Transport Advisory Council, where the representatives of the various State Governments participate, that the State Governments should consider relaxing the restrictions that at present exist on traffic moving between one region and another within the States concerned. With a view to facilitate such traffic, various steps have been taken.

Then with regard to enabling more goods being carried by sea, the House is aware that a Committee is going into this question just at present. We expect the report of the Committee to be submitted shortly. Then we will be able to consider its recommendations.

Shri Matthen: What has happened to surface transport, not coastal transport? Does the hon. Minister feel that an assurance to the private sector that there won't be nationalisation, at least during the Plan period, will help to develop road transport?

Shri Alagesan: I have already stated several times on the floor of the House that as far as goods transport goes, there is no question of nationalisation within the Second Plan period. Even with reference to passenger transport services, it will be done as per programme prepared by the State Governments, and those programmes also will be phased by them.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In reply to (b), the hon. Minister has said that they are going to maintain Co-ordination between rail, road and sea. One of the factors that make this Co-ordination difficult is that we have very few ports. Many of the minor ports have been left undeveloped because they have been proved uneconomical for some time. In view of this acute problem, do Government propose to explore the possibilities of developing also those ports on the coastline which have been left undeveloped so far?

Shri Alagesan: The question of minor ports has not escaped the attention of Government at all. It is true that minor ports are in the administrative charge of State Governments. The State Governments have prepared various schemes with reference to minor ports. They receive priority, and those schemes have been vetted here. Also loan assistance has been granted to the State Governments.

Indo-Pakistan Traffic

*1355. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to negotiate with the Government of Pakistan introduction of through traffic between India and East Pakistan particularly between Calcutta and Amingaon of the N.E. Railway via Parbatipur of East Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The booking of through traffic from stations on Indian Railways to stations on Pakistan Railways and *vice versa* has all along been allowed except that passengers have, at present, to purchase fresh tickets at the border stations in the other country.

Booking of traffic between Calcutta and Amingaon is permissible by the Banpur-Santahar-Mghalhat-Alipurduar route but the opening of Parbatipur route is still under consideration of the Pakistan authorities.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: By what time the finalisation of this agreement between our Government and the Pakistan Government is expected?

Shri Alagesan: We will have to await their reactions. I am not yet able to say by what time they will be able to give their reactions.

Shri Barman: Passengers have, no doubt, to purchase fresh tickets at the Pakistan station. But they have to be armed with passes also. Was it not under contemplation to negotiate with Pakistan so that passenger traffic also could be arranged through Pakistan without any passport, by devising some arrangement whereby the passengers do not move away from the railway stations while travelling through Pakistan? If so, what is the result of such negotiations?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think I am competent to answer that question. The railways make arrangements for goods being transported across Pakistan. So also is the case with passengers. But that does not mean that we can do away with other regulations.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: May I know whether negotiations for through-traffic between India and East Pakistan from Calcutta to Parbatipur, Lalmanirhat and Amingaon are going on?

Shri Alagesan: I think I answered that question. The hon. Member has in mind the route via Parbatipur. I have said that it is still under the consideration of the Pakistan Government.

Harnessing of Godavari River

*1356. **Shri Viswanatha Reddi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras have requested the Centre to investigate the possibility of harnessing the Godavari river with a view to take the water to South India after meeting the needs of Andhra area; and

(b) if so, the action taken, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Viswanatha Reddi: May I know whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of Madras and Andhra Pradesh have expressed identical views both with regard to the taking up of the project at an early date, as also the urgency of the matter?

Shri Hathi: I have read reports to that effect. But to the question whether the Madras Government has requested the Centre to investigate, the reply is 'no'. That Government has not yet approached the Central Government. But I have read reports in the newspapers about these statements.

Shri Viswanatha Reddi: Am I to understand that no official request has been received either from the Andhra Pradesh Government or from the Madras Government?

Shri Hathi: We have not received any scheme from the Madras Government. I do not know about Andhra Pradesh. I will enquire.

Shri Viswanatha Reddi: May I know whether it is a fact that sometime ago there was a proposal for integration of the Godavari and Krishna river valleys schemes by letting the waters of Godavari into the Krishna at the higher reaches?

Shri Hathi: That is a scheme which really was taken up during the investigation of the Nandikonda scheme, now the Nagarjunasagar scheme. The whole question of utilising the rivers in the southern zone, that is, Krishna, Godavari and Pennar, has been investigated during those stages by the Central Water and Power Commission. Those investigations are even now being carried on by the Commission.

Shri Viswanatha Reddi: May I know whether the feasibility of the scheme has been proved or not proved?

Shri Hathi: It could not be said whether it is proved or not proved, unless we get the final results of the investigations.

Shri Balakrishnan: Supposing the Madras Government makes a request, will the Centre consider it favourably because the reaction of the Andhra Pradesh Government is very friendly and favourable?

Shri Hathi: The Government of India will give all technical assistance to any State Government.

International Labour Organisation Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference

+
*1358. { **Sardar Akarpuri:**
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the meeting of the International Labour Organisation Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference held at London during September-October, 1956;

(b) if so, the number of persons who attended the Conference; and

(c) the decisions arrived at Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Nine.

(c) No decisions were to be taken by this Conference as the meeting was only preparatory to the full session of the Maritime Conference to be held in 1958.