

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a micro-wave link telecommunication system in the State of Assam;

(b) when the work is proposed to be started and the system is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati):** (a) Yes.

(b) Tenders for the supply of equipment have been invited and preliminary works on the project have already been started. It is planned to complete the scheme before the end of 1964.

(c) The estimated cost of the scheme is approximately Rs. 2.1 crores.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know whether this type of scheme is going to be extended to other areas or not, and whether all the important cities will be covered by this scheme?

**Shri Bhagavati:** This scheme is going to be first installed in the Assam—Calcutta region because of the hilly terrain. Subsequently, it will be extended to Kashmir; that is also a hilly region. In other parts, underground cables are laid.

**Shri Ranga:** What is this micro-wave link? We do not understand what it is.

**Mr. Speaker:** Could the Minister give some idea about this? Hon. Members do not understand what this would be.

**Shri Bhagavati:** This is some sort of a wireless system.

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** May I briefly say what it is? Micro-wave is a radio wave of short lengths; the waves go up to a distance which is seeable, as far as we can see from the place where the equipments are

installed. In the plains, the distance is small: 30 to 40 miles. If we get a hillock which commands a larger view, the distance may be upto 100 miles. By micro-waves we can increase the channels to a very large number; it will be radio-telephone. If you provide a large number of these, it will expedite the communication system.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Because that explanation has been given, I thought there was no use discussing it further.

#### Elections of Panchayats

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\*480. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**  
**Shri Krishna Deo Tripathi:**

Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are in consultation with the State Governments regarding Panchayati Raj elections in different States; and

(b) the advice, if any, tendered by the Central Government and the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government were advised to postpone direct elections to Panchayati Raj bodies. This was accepted. In view of the latest decision of the Election Commission two States where the question was raised have been advised to proceed with the holding of elections to village panchayats.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what are the shortcomings and difficulties which have been thrown up in the working of the Panchayati Raj and which the Government propose to get over before the next elections are conducted?

**The Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri S. K. Dey):** The pattern of elections varies from State to State. There are considerable experiences that have been gained by the States, and we propose to have a study made of the experiences of the different States before we are in a position firmly to advise the States in the direction in which they should have the elections in the future.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I take it that the next elections will be without the benefit of this experience, or, the Government will have these elections after there is discussion between the State Ministers and some conclusions are arrived at?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** We hope to complete the study of the experiences that have been thrown up by the end of the current year or the beginning of the next. If any elections have to take place in between, of course, we would not stand in the way.

**डा० गोविन्द दास:** चूंकि अब संकट-कालीन परिस्थिति में भी उपचुनाव हो रहे हैं, और कम से कम मध्य प्रदेश में यह बात मानी जा रही है कि 'चायत के चुनाव शीघ्र से शीघ्र हो जाने चाहिये, क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ विचार किया जा रहा है, और मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के पास से इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ आया है, और मध्य प्रदेश के पंचायतों के चुनाव के सम्बन्ध में कुछ निर्णय किया गया है?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** We have already advised the Madhya Pradesh State Government to go ahead with the elections because in many areas they have not had panchayat elections for the past 10 years. It is very necessary for the Government to implement the programme of Panchayati Raj and it is not desirable that it should be established on the old panchayats.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** In view of the fact that the panchayat elections will involve millions of our countrymen and in view of the fact that the emergency exists in India, has the Gov-

ernment thought over the desirability of lifting the emergency in view of the coming panchayat elections?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The elections certainly can be conducted on a phased pattern, so that they can be spread over a period without raising any convulsion anywhere.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to advise political parties not to take part in the election of panchayats?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shrimati Gayatri Devi:** In view of the fact that the panchayat elections are non-political, what steps are Government going to take to see that the ruling party does not interfere in these elections?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The ruling party has already taken the decision that it should not participate in the elections at the ground level. (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Jashvant Mehta:** May I know if the Central Government propose to advise the Gujarat Government to establish panchayati raj without elections?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** I do not see how it arises, because the Gujarat State Government has been advised to establish panchayati raj on the basis of their present panchayats, which are elected institutions, where people have been elected directly and on the basis of the district local board, where again members have been fully elected?

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Only the other day the Minister stated that at various levels in the panchayati raj, because we have multi-party system and there are so many parties, these parties are bound to be reflected in all the panchayati raj institutions. How does he reconcile that statement with the answer which he has given to the Maharani just now?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** I said that even at the ground level, of course, there will be members from various political parties, but the election does not have to be fought on party lines.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** May I know whether the Government propose to advise the State Governments to introduce secrecy of ballot so far as panchayat elections are concerned and proportional representation for the panchayati samitis,

**Shri S. K. Dey:** We have already recommended so.

**Shri Ranga:** Is it not a fact or does the Minister wish to deny the existence of the practice on the part of the Congress Party and various other parties also, more especially the Congress Party, to select their candidates for the presidentship of the panchayati samitis, zila parishad and so on all over India,

**Shri S. K. Dey:** I gave the answer in respect of the village panchayats. Of course, on higher bodies, we have put no ban.

#### Jayanti Shipping Company

\*481 **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had under consideration the question of converting the Jayanti Shipping Company into a public limited Company; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). The decision that the Jayanti Shipping Company (Private) Ltd., should convert itself into a public limited company was taken by the Government in January, 1962. On a representation from the Company it has recently been decided to grant them an extension of time from 16-1-1963 to 15-4-1963 for this purpose.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** What are the circumstances in which this decision of making this company converted into a public limited company was taken?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It was requested—their fiscal year ended on 31st March—therefore, they wanted to issue the prospectus simultaneously with the issuing of shares after the conclusion of the fiscal year. That was one thing. Secondly, they also wanted that they should be allowed permission for the public issue of these shares, which has to be obtained. Apart from that, as I have already said, the company wanted to issue the prospectus.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether the Government undertook to stand guarantee for the loan to the extent of 90 per cent of the value of the 13 ships purchased by the company from Japan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is correct; that is a guarantee for loan.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** What was the share capital of the Jayanti Shipping Company on the day they applied for financial loan to the Government of India and what is the quantum of the loan so far advanced to them?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The quantum of loan is 10 per cent of the price of the first ship that has been delivered so far. The present paid-up capital is Rs. 2.83 crores.

**Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:** Sir, my question has not been answered. I want to know what was the paid-up share capital of the company on the day they applied for government aid and what is the total quantum of aid given so far?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Sir, the two questions are quite different. The second part of his question is what is the total amount paid till this moment. The first part of the question is, what was the paid-up capital with which the company registered