

Shri Bhagavati: The interest is added from time to time. If there is any specific complaint, I shall look into that.

Study of Inter-State Navigational Problems

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*928. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri P. E. Chakraverti:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some French Experts are coming to India to study the inter-State navigational problems; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the problems to be investigated?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A French Mission comprising M/s. Maurice REMILLIEUX and Michel ROUSSELOT visited India from 10th to 23rd February, 1964 to advise on new methods for improving rivers for navigation. They inspected Narmada river (Garudeshwar-Broach section) and Brahmaputra river (down stream of Jorhat).

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether they have submitted any report to Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Their report exactly is not there, but our technical officers who accompanied them have taken certain notes which are with us. We also expect a report from them.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether they have made any observations regarding the deterioration of the inter-State navigational system in our country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They inspected two particular sections, one on the Narmada and the other on the Brahmaputra. In regard to these they have made certain observations.

Shri P. E. Chakraverti: May I know what specific recommendations have been found acceptable to the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These are to be examined. They relate to the methods of stabilising or deepening the river channels for navigation—one is known as the surface panel technique and the other is the bottom panel technique—and how to apply them. They are highly technical matters. If he is interested I can furnish a statement, provided he writes to me.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know whether Government has put forward the proposal that has been envisaged by Sri C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer for linking Cauveri with Ganga for navigational purposes?

Mr. Speaker: Was he also a French expert?

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether Government are actively considering the possibility of linking major rivers in India to build up a trunk system of riparian routes all through the country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We would very much like to do that consistently with the availability of water in the rivers after meeting the irrigation needs, damming of the rivers etc., and secondly, consistently with the availability of finances. This is a very big question. I cannot reply to that straightaway.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is it not a fact that a blueprint regarding the inter-State connection of rivers envisaged by Dr. Singhvi has already been drawn up by the Ministry? What is the position regarding it and what are the main features of the scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as I know, the Gadgil Committee went into this question and made certain recommendations. There may be other reports, I am not aware, but, as I have said, the progress in this particular matter

is essentially limited or confined by the limitations or availability of water and finance.

Shri A. P. Jain: Since independence, what are the principal routes of riverine navigation which have been taken on hand, and what are the ones which have been abandoned?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as I know we have this Calcutta-Assam route, which is the principal route.

Shri A. P. Jain: That was there even before independence.

Shri Raj Bahadur: You asked about the routes.

Shri A. P. Jain: Since independence.

Shri Raj Bahadur: They have been continuing, and there has also been the Rajmahal Bengal-Bihar route. Also, there is limited navigation in the Buckingham Canal, and also a canal in the South.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether they recommended anything about the international navigational problem from Calcutta to Assam?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir. They have only dealt with the methods of tackling the river navigation.

Shri Ranga: More than Rs. 1 crore was granted for the improvement and development of the Buckingham Canal more than ten years ago. Why is it that the completion has been delayed till now, and how soon is it going to be completed? There would be no need for any French expert for that.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think I have time and again explained the special features of the Buckingham Canal and its character. The character is that we try to desilt it, and it heaves up again on account of silting or the process known as heaving. We have been allotting funds and we have allotted funds to the Madras Government and the Andhra Government for this particular purpose again.

Shri Ranga: I asked him when it was going to be completed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Buckingham Canal is already in existence.

Shri Ranga: You have not built it up, thank God. It is the improvement of it I am asking about. Money has been granted more than ten years ago. I am asking when it is going to be completed.

Mr. Speaker: He says it is in existence.

Shri Ranga: It has been in existence, in spite of them, for the last 100 years.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would not like the impression to go that we have done nothing.

Shri Vishram Prasad: In the annual report of Irrigation and Power Ministry there is a proposal to connect the Jumna with the Narmada. May I know whether this mission considered that possibility too?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not possible for me to say off-hand whether Jumna and Narmada can be linked.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: May I know if the Minister is aware that the portion of the Brahmaputra, from Neamati Ghat to Dibrugarh, has been closed, and whether the expert body has examined that question, and if so, the recommendations and steps that are going to be taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have indicated in my reply that the experts inspected Brahmaputra down and south of Jorhat. Neamati Ghat and Dibrugarh are north of Jorhat and the navigability thereof had been affected by the adverse effects of an earthquake that took place sometime back.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the financial implications of the Narmada-Brahmaputra river navigation schemes have been examined and, if so, what is the amount?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They have given certain features of the existing rivers, about the navigability, presence of shoals, character of the bed. These have to be examined fully and equipment has to be obtained. We cannot say anything about it just now.

Shri P. B. Chakraverti: Question 941 also may be taken up along with Question 929.

Mr. Speaker: If it is convenient, that also may be replied to.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): It is a separate question but if it is desired, I shall answer it.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a separate question, it may be kept separate.

Ban on Movement of Sugar and Gur

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- *929. { **Shri Gulshan:**
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Buta Singh:

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

(a) whether he had stated some time in January, 1964 at his press conference that the ban on movement of sugar and gur will not be withdrawn; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet with public demand for the supply of sugar and gur in the country

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quotas of sugar and gur are allotted every month to various States for regulated distribution after taking into account the availability and requirements.

श्री गुलशन : क्या यह सच है कि कंट्रोल से पहले चीनी और गुड़ जनता को कंट्रोल रेट से भी कम कीमत पर ग्राम मिलते रहे हैं ? क्या यह भी सच है कि चीनी और गुड़ का संकट सरकार ने खुद पैदा किया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य की दूसरी बात को मिनिस्टर साहब कैसे मानेंगे ?

श्री गुलशन : हम कहते हैं कि सरकार ने यह संकट खुद पैदा किया है ।

Shri Shinde: That is not correct. It is well known that there was a short-fall in production last year and we have also some export commitments. That is why sugar supply position was slightly tight.

श्री गुलशन : स्पीकर साहब, इस को हिन्दी में समझा दें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा, है, उस को मिनिस्टर साहब नहीं मानते ।

श्री गुलशन : क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार चीनी और गुड़ का कंट्रोल खत्म नहीं करना चाहती और इस वक्त जनता की जरूरत पूरी नहीं होती यदि हां, तो क्या जनता की जरूरत पूरी करने में सरकार विफल रही है ?

Shri Shinde: Government of course does not contemplate the relaxation of the present control measures so long as production position has not improved.

श्री गुलशन : देहाती एरिया में तो चीनी बिल्कुल मिलती नहीं है ।

Shri Kapur Singh: Are Government aware that great hardship has been caused in the rural areas of Punjab in the absence of free movement of gur between UP and Punjab and, if so, are Government considering the desirability of removing the ban between Punjab and U.P., at least, in respect of gur?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): It has been made clear on more than one occasion that it is not possible to lift the ban. With