

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: You must protect the House. To the last three questions, no relevant replies have been given.

MR. SPEAKER: I am looking after the whole House.....

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Almost 15,000 children in Gujarat State do diamond polishing. By the time they reach the age of 15, they lose their eye sight. Is the government aware of this thing and what steps have been taken against this?

श्री टी० अंबेडकर: मैंने कहा कि यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करने का मसला है। मैंने यह नहीं कहा है कि इसमें एकसप्लाईमेंट नहीं है, इसमें एकसप्लाईमेंट है। इसमें जितना एक्शन लिया जाना चाहिए वह हम लेंगे। जो रिपोर्ट सारी है उसको स्टडी करने ही एक्शन लिया जा सकता है।

Agreement with Bangladesh for River Route service to Karimganj

*374. **SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Bangladesh Government through river route service to Karimganj (Bangladesh); and

(b) if so, the date from which it is likely to restart?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade signed by the Governments of India and Bangladesh in November, 1972 river services on Calcutta-Karimganj-Calcutta route are already being operated.

(b) Calcutta-Karimganj river service was resumed from 19th May, 1975. This service is continued for about 5 months in a year when the water depth is sufficient for economic operation in this route for the existing vessels of the Corporation.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: In his reply the Minister has said that

there is an agreement with Bangladesh from 1972. From 1972 till today, how many times the rivers have been operated from Calcutta to Karimganj? In view of the present position in Assam, the economic condition of Cachar, Mizoram and Tripura is so bad that essential commodities are being sold at the highest prices as compared to the whole country. What steps his Ministry proposes to take to make this service a regular one?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said that the service has been now resumed; and I suppose it will be a regular service. But the difficulty is that on the side of Bangladesh, the water depth is not sufficient that we can carry on the service regularly. We are going to have a meeting with the Bangladesh Government. There is a standing committee between the Governments of India and Bangladesh and in that meeting, we are going to raise this question as to how they are going to improve the position on the other side so that we can have a continuous service.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Improvement in Delhi Hospitals towards Patients

*369. **SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the imperative necessity to make the Government doctors in Delhi to show positive response and responsibility in action towards the patients in general;

(b) what other immediate improvements Government propose to make in hospitals in Delhi; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):