

On Jetty at Haldia

*268. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to construct another Oil Jetty at Haldia Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to locate a suitable site and prepare a project report M/s. Engineers India Limited have been entrusted with the consultancy work. The feasibility report is expected to be submitted by them by January, 1981. On receipt of the feasibility report from the consultants, further action will be taken.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: May I know from the hon. Minister the time schedule for the beginning and completion of the construction of the jetty?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: The consultants are still busy with preparing the alternative report. As soon as the reports are made available, the construction of the jetty will be taken up.

SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: On account of the detention of ships the port authorities had to pay lot of money. In view of the Assam agitation, the whole north-eastern region has to depend upon Haldia for oil. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether they will consider the urgent necessity for the quick completion of this jetty or not?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, alternative arrangements were made on an

emergency basis and it will not be correct to say that work was stopped. Work is being carried on through alternative arrangements by utilising the services of iron-ore jetty. So, the question of stopping the work does not arise. The suggestion of the hon. Member that it should be taken up early is under our consideration.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: In view of the fact that the Government has repeatedly said that Haldia refinery cannot be expanded because the cost of transporting oil is high as the Haldia port cannot accommodate bulk carriers, I had asked about the cost of transporting oil from Arabian sea to Mathura. But I did not get any answer to my question. However, the question is whether this jetty will have draft capability to accommodate bulk carriers. If not, would you consider the feasibility of an open sea anchorage point so that the bulk carriers can berth and we can have lighterage system? Even the petrochemical complex was not sanctioned because of the high cost of oil being brought to Haldia.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: We have already drawn the programme for increasing the capacities and also maintaining the present oil jetty. In the present Plan, sufficient allocations have been made. For future we have an elaborate plan. I agree with the hon. Member that construction of the jetty is very important from the national point of view and his suggestion will be taken into consideration.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्वेश्चन नं. 269 ।

श्री अहमद एम. पटेल : क्वेश्चन नं. 269 ।

भ्रम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी. अजय्या) : क्वेश्चन नं. 269 और क्वेश्चन नं. 277 एक ही विषय पर हैं, इसलिए दोनों को एक साथ ले लिया जाए ।

MR. SPEAKER: Let both the questions be taken together.