

Acquisition of Coastal Vessels and Movement of Coal

***190. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India is going to acquire six coastal vessels for stepping up the movement of coal;

(b) whether these vessels would be purchased by direct negotiations with foreign shipbuilders or by inviting tenders; and

(c) whether the possibility of having some of these vessels built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited at Visakhapatnam has been ascertained?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A proposal for the acquisition of six vessels for the coastal trade has been received from the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. and is under consideration of Government.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) As the Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam will be busy during the entire Third Five Year Plan period in building ships for the overseas trade it would not be possible to construct these ships at that yard. But the possibility of getting some of the ships built in the country is being explored.

Deep-Water Paddy

***191.** { Shri M. N. Swamy:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

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

(a) the extent of flooded areas in the country; and

(b) the feasibility of raising deep-water paddy in combination with fish culture?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram

Subhag Singh): (a) No reliable data is available of the extent of flooded areas in the country. Rough indications show that one million acres of land remain under water for atleast four months in a year.

(b) It is feasible to raise paddy in combination with fish culture in fields holding water for a considerable part of the year and reservoirs. It would not be possible to take up this work in water logged areas as sufficient water is not available on the surface.

Extension of Industrial Disputes Act to Railways

***192. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian National Trade Union Congress has demanded the extension of the Industrial Disputes Act to the Railways; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have considered the demand and taken a decision thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Government have not received any such demand from the Indian National Trade Union Congress so far. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is applicable to Railways also.

(b) Does not arise.

Defects in Hirakud Dam

***193.** { Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Shri K. Pattnayak:
Shri Eswara Reddy:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Orissa made at a press conference at Bhubaneswar on the 14th July, 1962 to the effect that some glaring defects have been detected in regard to the Hirakud Dam;

(b) what are these defects and whether these were examined by the Central Water and Power Commission;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) how far the present defective dam is responsible in reducing the flood control capacity of Hirakud Dam and what steps are proposed to be taken to make up this lacuna?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 51].

Agricultural Commission

***194. Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken regarding appointment of an Agricultural Commission to review the agricultural progress made in the country over the last 15 years?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): Yes. The Government have decided not to appoint an Agricultural Commission at present.

Cholera in Calcutta

***195. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the virulent outbreak of cholera in epidemic form in Calcutta at an unusual time of the year;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Union Government to help the State Government to counteract this attack;

(c) in view of the fact that Calcutta has been declared an endemic area for cholera in Asia, whether Government propose to tackle this on a priority basis; and

(d) whether any financial or other aid is forthcoming?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India are aware of increased incidence of cholera in Calcutta from about mid-June to mid-July owing, perhaps, to late on set- of monsoon in that area.

(b) The out-break of cholera has been effectively controlled by the local authorities. The State Government did not ask for any Central assistance.

(c) and (d). The problem of Calcutta is being dealt with on a priority basis for which all help is being given.

Slow Unloading of Coal

***196. Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether slow unloading of coal from Railway wagons in certain States has resulted in disruption of the schedule of coal transport by the railways;

(b) if so, how far this situation has deteriorated during the past six months; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) There is no general disruption of the schedule of coal transport by the Railways due to slow unloading of coal from Railway wagons. Cases have, however, occurred where coal wagons, especially BOX wagon rakes suffered detentions at destination stations for unloading, resulting in their turn round becoming longer.

(b) The position has not shown any marked deterioration in the past six months.

(c) (i) With a view to expedite unloading of BOX wagon rakes, the State Governments are being persuaded to operate coal dumps at suitable locations. While some coal dumps have already been opened, the question of opening coal dumps at other points of consumption is being pursued with the State Governments.