

suggestions before the Election Commission on this subject; if they do, I have no doubt that the matter will be given the utmost of consideration by the Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** May I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister on this point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next time he might try.

**Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:** I want to ask a question.

**Mr. Speaker:** So many have not been given that opportunity.

#### Unloading Facilities at Ports

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- \*164. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**  
**Shri R. G. Dubey:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri K. N. Tiwary:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 333 on the 22nd September, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the unloading facilities at ports to handle the amount of grain that is to be imported within the next two or three months are still far from adequate; and

(b) if so, the immediate steps proposed to be taken to improve matters in this regard so that foodships do not get unnecessarily held up at the ports as in the past few months?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan):** (a) It is not a fact that unloading facilities at ports are inadequate to handle the quantity of grain which is being imported.

(b) Government, however, considered that it was possible to improve the pace of discharge from ships so that quicker turn-round of ships could be effected. After full examination, steps have been taken to purchase a number of discharging machines from abroad. Simultaneously, certain berths at some of the major ports have been permanently earmarked for receiving bulk food-grains and certain modifications in these sheds are being made. It is considered that all the machines ordered from abroad will be available by the middle of January 1965 and the modifications in these sheds would also have been made by them.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Is it a fact that in June last this Ministry took a firm decision to import certain mechanical grain handling machines from Switzerland, but the orders for the same were actually not placed till the end of September? May we know the reasons for this inordinate delay in placing the order?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam):** The suitability of the machines had to be finalised, and also we had to find the necessary foreign exchange.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Is it a fact that a team of American maritime experts submitted a report very recently, suggesting certain short-term solutions for our problem of port operations? May we know if those recommendations lay emphasis on administrative reforms only, or do they also suggest some immediate augmentation of machinery and equipment for our ports?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, they recommended the augmentation of machinery to a certain extent. All that has been considered, and we have placed orders for the machinery, and it has been stated in the main answer that these would become available by the middle of January.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** May I know whether Government is considering the feasibility of utilising other than major ports like Karwar and Goa,

where unloading of foodgrains could be done with the help of barges etc.?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The difficulty is that as far as wheat is concerned, it is imported in big tankers, and they can be berthed only in major ports. As far as rice is concerned, it is brought in smaller ships also; they are diverted to the various minor ports also.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** अमरीका के विशेषज्ञों ने चिन्ता प्रकट की है कि जो काम एक दिन में होना चाहिए वह 12 दिन में होता है। तो क्या सरकार ने यह सोचा है कि इस काम को बजाय कांटेक्ट बेसिस के डिपार्ट-मेंट लाइव किया जाय, और सरकार इस मामले में कांटेक्ट सिस्टम छोड़ कर अपना डिपार्टमेंट कायम करे ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think it is correct to say that what would take one day is being done in twelve days. No doubt, we take a little longer than in other countries because there it is completely mechanised. Here mechanisation will mean displacement of labour, against which there is resistance, but to a certain extent mechanisation is unavoidable, and we are doing it to the extent possible.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** As unloading of food is an important thing and delay in it sometimes creates great difficulty for the people, may I know if the Centre is thinking of introducing some ordinance in order to keep a check on subversive forces which organise strikes especially among labourers who are doing this job of unloading?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think that this could be met by Ordinances; it will have to be done by education and making the people recognise that they could not afford to put the community in jeopardy and in danger.

**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** What would be the total cost if all our ports are

to be installed with this modern machinery?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I think the question might be put to my hon. friend here.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारो :** क्या यह सही है कि अभी प्रति दिन 1500 टन का डिस्चार्ज है, और अगर मशीनें लगा दी जायें तो यह तीन या चार हजार टन रोज का हो जायगा, पर यह काम इसलिए जल्दी नहीं हो रहा है कि लेबर यूनियन्स इस में दिक्कत पैदा कर रही हैं ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** There is a general resistance to mechanised unloading process because labour is afraid that there would be displacement of labour if such a thing happens. We have to deal with the existing situation. We cannot throw out those who are already employed. Subject to that we are trying to introduce mechanisation which would facilitate unloading of more foodgrains.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know if it is a fact that Government had to pay Rs. 50,000 per day as compensation for the immobilisation of 12 food ships that arrived at the port of Bombay during May 5 to June 5, 1964 and if so may I know what are the reasons behind this criminal exploitation of tax-payers' money?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It is true that we had to pay demurrage during this period but I am not quite sure of the figure which was mentioned. The hon. Transport Minister will be able to give the figures. There were the go slow tactics on the part of labour at that time and that was one of the contributory factors for the deterioration of the food situation in the country.

**श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा :** अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा कि अमरीका से कुछ यंत्र मंगाए जा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि उन यंत्रों के साथ में क्या उतारने वाले भी अमरीका से

मंगाये जायेंगे या हमारे यहां के लोग यह काम करेंगे ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Our own men are competent to work them.

श्री तुलशी दास जाधव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह फंड प्राबलम तो बहुत दिनों से चल रहा है, लेकिन इस के लिए मशीनें अभी तक नहीं मंगाई गईं। सरकार प्यास लगने पर ही कुंवा खोदनी है। अभी तक गवर्नमेंट ने इन सब बातों का इन्तिजाम क्यों नहीं किया ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** There is a programme to produce the required machinery within the country and till that happens to the extent necessary, we have got to import them. There is nothing wrong in that.

#### Escape of Daniel Walcott

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\*165. { **Shri Hem Barua:**  
 { **Shri R. G. Dubey:**  
 { **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the findings of the Jain Committee Report regarding the escape of Daniel Walcott from India on the 25th September, 1963?

**The Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Kanungo):** The officers who have come in for notice in the report of Shri L. C. Jain who enquired into the escape of Mr. Daniel H. Walcott from Safdarjung Airport on September 26, 1963, have been asked to explain their conduct and also to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

The question of amending the Aircraft Act, 1934, and the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, to strengthen the provisions of law to deal with such cases, is under examination.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Is it a fact that Government have not succeeded so far in building up our case sufficiently for Mr. Walcott's extradition to face charges of smuggling and illegal

visit to this country and if so, what are the reasons?

**Shri Kanungo:** The question is concerned with the steps to be taken against the concerned officers arising out of the report. This is a broader question which I cannot answer.

**Shri Hem Barua:** About this question, we were told on the floor of the House that attempts were made in that direction.

**Mr. Speaker:** The attempt was made for extradition. The question relates to the finding of the Committee regarding the escape of Daniel Walcott from India on the 25th September. Therefore, the hon. Member's question is outside the scope of this question.

**Shri Hem Barua:** The extradition is in connection with this.

**Mr. Speaker:** How he has escaped... that is what we are concerned now.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know if the report has pinpointed the fact of a high official of the Airlines Corporation dining and wining with Mr. Walcott—it came up on the floor of the House—and, if so, may I know what steps the Government propose to take against that high official?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir. It was not brought out in the report.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** It has appeared in the press that an attendant-mechanic who was present in the hangar at the time pointed out to the controlling authority that refuelling was being done against the standing instructions. May I know whether the services of that attendant-mechanic who was so loyal have been appreciated in any way?

**Shri Kanungo:** Yes. When the report is disposed of, then the services of two of the men who did exemplary service will be recognised.

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : जैन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में कितने अफसरों के खिलाफ लिखा