

Shri Anthony Pillai: The hon. Minister has stated that the prices paid by the Kerala Government are different from those paid by the Central Government. May we know what exactly is the difference?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They paid a little higher for coarse rice. We were procuring at the rate of Rs. 17 whereas they paid Rs. 18-7-3 and Rs. 18-1-3.

Dairy Scheme in Punjab

*432. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation or any other country's aid to start dairying in Punjab carries certain strings with it;

(b) whether the aid is received directly by the State Government or through the Central Government; and

(c) whether the Government of India is getting reports about the progress made in dairying from the State Government?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No.

(b) Through the Central Government.

(c) Yes. The schemes are being implemented by the State authorities in close collaboration with the Government of India and the reports about the progress made are being received from the State Government.

Sirhind Accident

*433. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Frontier Mail bound for Amritsar on the 3rd October, 1957 met with an accident at Sirhind Railway Station and the engine of the train derailed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Sahasrwar Khan): Yes; at about 5-53 hours on 3rd October, 1957, No. 31 Up Frontier Mail entered the dead end siding at Sirhind station resulting in the derailment of its Engine.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In view of the repeated accidents, is there a proposal to appoint a high power authority to go into their causes and suggest ways and means to avoid future recurrence?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is an agency, and I feel a very efficient agency, for looking into the causes of all the accidents, namely, the Government Inspector of Railways. As the House is aware, a Committee was appointed to go into all the aspects of accidents and its report is before the House. It is not proposed to appoint any fresh Committee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the recommendations of the various inquiry committees have been implemented to avoid future accidents? If so, what are the specific recommendations?

Mr. Speaker: Are we to go into all the recommendations of the various committees?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Certain aspects.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly ask an unstarred question and I will get the answer.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there were any casualties in this accident?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There were no casualties.

Construction of "The State of Andamans"

*435. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Narayanankutty Menon
Shri Easwara Iyer:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Jaganatha Rao:
Shrimati Masda Ahmed:
Shri N. E. Munsamy:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original estimate for the construction of the Ship "The

State of Andamans" in Hindustan Ship Yard;

(b) what is the actual cost so far incurred in the construction of the said Ship;

(c) whether this Ship has been handed over to Ministry of Home Affairs for service;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for not handing it over so far;

(e) whether any defects were noticed in the building of the Ship as soon as it was launched; and

(f) if so, what were the defects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Rs. 125 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 143.45 lakhs.

(c) The ship has been dry-docked at Calcutta and is expected to be delivered within the next few days.

(d) to (f). The delay was due to certain deficiencies. The deficiencies noticed in the vessel have been rectified by providing a temporary ballast.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What were the deficiencies which were discovered?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said, the deficiency was a certain lack of stability which has been rectified by providing some temporary ballast.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the expenditure incurred on rectifying this deficiency?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The expenditure is expected to be negligible as 2,000 tons of steel plates, which were available with the Hindustan Shipyard, have been rivetted. Afterwards, they will be taken away.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could I know if the responsibility for the deficiency can be foisted on the French consultant company, which has not got a very satisfactory record of work in the Shipyard, and if so, if there is any

clause in the agreement which would enable us to get some satisfaction?

Shri Humayun Kabir: A Committee of Inquiry has been appointed with the Chief Surveyor to the Government of India and two other experts to go into the question. After the responsibility has been fixed, necessary action will be taken.

Shri Vajpayee: When is the report of the Inquiry Committee expected?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Committee was appointed on the 27th September and we must give it at least two or three months.

Shri Anthony Pillai: What was the original estimate of the carrying capacity of this vessel and what is its carrying capacity now? Also, what would be the potential loss in earning because of the lower carrying capacity?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I would ask for notice.

Shri N. R. Munsamy: Who are the persons constituting the Committee? Are the French consultants also represented on the Committee?

Shri Humayun Kabir: No, it consists of the Chief Surveyor to the Government of India, Shri Bose, Commander Dayasankar of the Indian Navy and Shri Gokuldas of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.

Food Production

*437. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each Zonal Council in the country is required to contribute to the national pool of food production during the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what is the quota or the target fixed for each Zonal Council; and

(c) what kind of assistance is given to each State by the Centre to fulfil the target?