

Shri Humayun Kabir: I think the hon. Member is under a slight misapprehension. The Ganga Brahmaputra Water Transport Board cannot take the responsibility of such services. They can only give technical advice and in certain cases probably recommend that a subsidy may be given to a private agency who may carry out the work. That was the recommendation of the Committee that the Board should continue the services. But the Committee did not obviously go into the constitution of the Board and therefore that recommendation is not feasible.

Hindustan Shipyard

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*842. { **Shri Muhammed Elias:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri V. P. Nayar:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in or about 1954 a costly, second hand crane was ordered for Hindustan Shipyard from Germany without calling for any tenders; and

(b) whether the purchase price was paid in spite of the Shipyard's Engineering Department refusing to certify the crane?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. The crane was purchased from Holland only after calling for Tenders.

(b) No. The cost was paid only after the crane was passed by the Engineering Department.

Shri Muhammed Elias: What is the actual price of this crane which was bought and what is the price of a new crane of this type?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a new crane, and the price was Rs. 8.50 lakhs for the crane itself.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Is it a fact, as had appeared in the papers, that this crane has given way or there is something wrong with this crane?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There was some trouble in the installation and at one stage there was some breakdown. But the installers themselves set it right at their own cost.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Has any claim been made on the suppliers who supplied it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is no question of making any claim, because when there was a defect which was noticed—there was a defect in the rails of the track—it was set right when it was noticed. There was some fault with the bearings and that was also set right. There is no question of claim.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: May I know whether any compensation has been claimed for the loss of time which has occurred?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I might say that such teething troubles are not unexpected in such operations or installations.

Electrification of Railway Stations

*844. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken for supply of electric light to the Railway Stations on the North Eastern Railway during 1958-59?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes Sir. 30 stations on the North Eastern Railway have been programmed for electrification during 1958-59.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether any proposal is under consideration for taking advantage of the electricity connection which is meant for working tube-wells, especially in East U.P.?

Mr. Speaker: The question is about electrification of railway stations. Are tube-wells in railway stations? Is it for the purpose of railways?