

soon as the stock of EMU coaches increases and when we run these electric trains entirely with the EMU coaches and rakes, perhaps the time taken will be reduced.

Shri Subiman Ghose: May I get an idea as to how many trains up and down run in between Howrah and Burdwan and the average number of passengers carried therein?

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise out of this question

Shri Subiman Ghose: In that case we shall be able to understand if so many people can control their natural calls for 2½ hours

Mr. Speaker: Nature's call is for individuals as well as for multitudes. Even if one suffers, he suffers. There may be old persons, there may be persons who have sugar. Many other things will be there. (*Interruptions*) It is not a short time

Influenza

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*1071. { **Shri Warrior:**
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Expert Committee of the World Health Organisation on Respiratory Virus Diseases, and

(b) if so, what measures the Government propose to take to prevent the spread of influenza in the next few years?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b) Government has just received a copy of the report of the Expert Committee on Respiratory Virus Diseases of the World Health Organisation. The publication of this report has not yet been authorised. The recommendation made in the report would be examined in due course.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether any new strain has been detected in it?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the Government have received reports that in India at least in some parts of the country there was heavy incidence of influenza? If so, have the Government examined whether it is going to be a permanent feature or an early feature?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir. We hope it will not be a permanent feature. There is no reason to conclude that it is any early feature.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The Pasteur Institute has isolated the virus. What steps have been taken by the Government to produce on a mass scale the vaccine produced there in order to take preventive steps at the time of the spread of the influenza?

Shri Karmarkar: Large-scale production has not been found to be practical but we are examining that question further.

Survey of the Power Potential of Brahmaputra Basin

*1072. **Shrimati Maftida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are contemplating survey of the Power potential of the Brahmaputra Basin and

(b) if so, what concrete steps are under way in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b) Power potential studies of the Brahmaputra basin have been made. These studies have indicated possibilities of development of hydro-power to the extent of about 13.3 million KW at 60 per cent load factor in the entire Brahmaputra Valley but contain no specific suggestion for immediate development of any scheme.

Shrimati Maftida Ahmed: May I know whether this survey was conducted by Indian engineers or foreign experts?

and whether this survey was made only to assess the data or to formulate some specific schemes?

Shri Hathi: The survey was made by our Indian engineers not only with a view to collect data but actually to locate the site and also the details of water conductor systems such as tunnels, channels, etc. All such investigations are being made. They are conducting investigations on individual sites also.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Central Water and Power Commission has also made a survey of the power potential of the Brahmaputra Basin and arrived at a certain conclusion; if so, is it also being taken into consideration for formulation of the scheme which the hon. Deputy Minister just now mentioned?

Shri Hathi: The reply that I gave about the survey relates to the survey made by the C.W.P.C., the organisation which the hon. Member referred to.

Shrimati Mafta Ahmed: According to the estimate made by Shri Kunwar Sain, ex-Chairman of C.W.P.C., the power potential of the Basin itself will be sufficient to meet more than the power requirements of the three States—Assam, Bihar and West Bengal—for the next ten years. May I know whether Government have any blue-print to harness the vast resources; if so, what are the main objectives of that blue-print?

Shri Hathi: As I mentioned earlier, the power that would be generated from the Brahmaputra Basin would be 13 million KW. That would be quite sufficient and investigations on certain sites are actually being made.

Shrimati Mafta Ahmed: In view of the fact that Assam has the highest hydro-electric power potential in the country, will the hon. Deputy Minister be pleased to ascribe the reasons why a river valley project has not yet been approved by the Government?

Shri Hathi: As I said, investigations are being made on eight sites, and on the Kopili Basin investigations have made sufficiently good progress. A preliminary report has been prepared and a final report is now being prepared. On the other sites also investigations are being made.

Procurement of Rice in Andhra

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•1973. { **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Punnose:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Rajendra Singh:

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

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the procuring of rice by the Central Government agencies in the State;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the representation; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on the representation?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh have represented that the maximum control prices for rice/paddy in the Delta Districts of Andhra Pradesh be enhanced and that the trade be permitted to export fine varieties of rice from Andhra outside the Zone. These requests of the State Government could not be acceded to in view of the need to stabilize the prices of rice in the Southern Rice Zone at a reasonable level.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether it is not a fact that as soon as procurement by the Central Government started in these three districts, the Andhra Government informed Central Government that the prices in the open market were soaring up and therefore there should not