

Barauni Thermal Power Plant

*296. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1945 on the 30th April, 1958 and state the progress made in the execution of the Thermal Power Plant Project at Barauni, Bihar?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): The project report has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation and Power Projects and has also been cleared by the Planning Commission. Civil engineering works are proceeding and tenders have been received for the plant and equipment. Orders, however, have not been placed as the foreign exchange required for the project has not yet been sanctioned since the project has not been included in the 'core of the Plan'. Efforts are being made for the procurement of the plant and equipment from such countries as will be prepared to accept payment in non-convertible Indian Rupees.

Ship on Fire abandoned near Saurashtra Coast

*299. { **Shri Nath Pai:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Assar:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a ship on fire was found abandoned near the Saurashtra coast on or about 24th June, 1958;

(b) to what nationality did the ship belong;

(c) what was its destination;

(d) what was the cargo it was carrying; and

(e) whether any enquiries have been made as to the cause and circumstances of the fire?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Dutch.

(c) The vessel, which commenced its voyage from Cairnyan near Glasgow, was bound for Basra in Persian Gulf via London, Port Said, Aden, Karachi and Bandar Shapur.

(d) Ammunition.

(e) An enquiry was held under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act by the Port Officer, Kutch Mandvi. This was followed up by a Departmental enquiry by the Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay. These enquiries did not, however, reveal the exact cause of the fire.

Chairmanship of Indian Airlines Corporation

*300. { **Shri Assar:**
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered Chairmanship of Indian Airlines Corporation to Mr. J. R. D. Tata;

(b) if so, on what terms; and

(c) with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). The question of appointing a non-official as Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation, as recommended by the Estimates Committee, in para 6 of their Forty-third Report, is under consideration.

Alexandra Docks, Bombay

*301 { **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Alexandra docks at Bombay have been recently damaged and barred to ships of deep draft;

(b) if so, how was the damage caused;