

Engineering College, Rourkela to an Indian Institute of Technology;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have accepted this proposal in principle; and

(c) what will be the financial implications of this upgrading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter will be decided according to the financial provision in and the needs of the revised Fourth Five-Year Plan.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: May I know from the Government whether this upgrading of the Engineering College at Rourkela is being included in the Fourth Five Year Plan by the Education Ministry or not?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: It is known to the House that the five IITs in the country have been developed. It is the intention of the Government that in stages all the engineering colleges in the country should be upgraded to near perfection or call it to the IIT standard. In that way, we have got eight regional colleges in the country. Now we are planning to upgrade those eight regional colleges and it is known to the hon. Member that Rourkela is one of the eight regional colleges.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will it be included?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I said, we are trying to improve the quality.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: When the regional college was established in Rourkela, the proposal of the Government of India was to serve the Hindustan Steel Plant's needs, and the Orissa Government took the initiative in starting the College with its own finances. In view of this fact, may I know from the hon. Minister whether out of this aid it will get top priority in their recommendation for including it in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: I think what the hon. Member said is not totally correct that the institution was started by the Orissa Government. As a matter of fact, in these few years the Central Government came forward with the assistance of Rs. 2 crores to this institution. And the recurring expenditure is over Rs. 50 lakhs. So, you can easily understand that the Government is giving due consideration, perhaps more consideration than to many of the institutions in the country.

*573. [The questioner (Shri Niranjan Singh) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3806-3807 infra.]

*574. [The questioner (Shri Thillai Villalan) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3807 infra.]

*575. [The questioner (Shri Kesavan (Thazhava)) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3807-3808 infra.]

SINKING OF TAJ MAHAL

*576. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK:†

SHRI B. K. MAHANTI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Taj Mahal is sinking; and

(b) if so, the steps which are being taken to protect the monument?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) There is no evidence to suggest that the Taj Mahal is sinking.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: May I know whether the Government sent any expert to this monument; if so, when and who was the expert?

PROF. SHER SINGH: We got it checked in 1965 and we found that everything is all right and there is no danger of its sinking.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. C. Pattanayak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether any expert went there to examine this matter—that is what he asks.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Experts have been checking it and the last checking was done in 1965.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Sir, there is some misunderstanding. There is a budgetary grant of Rs. 1.5 lakhs. Experts have been appointed and they are working out a scheme so that the building does not sink. But there is some possibility of its getting damaged. Therefore something in that regard should be said.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Repairs are being carried out; Rs. 1.60 lakhs are being spent annually for the maintenance of this monument. It is being done.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any technical evaluation has been made that the building is fit and there is no danger of its sinking, say, for the next 50 years?

PROF. SHER SINGH: It is very difficult to say or think about 50 years. But still I can say that due to variation in temperature, etc. some contractions have taken place and there has been the rusting of iron clamps, slabs, etc. We are taking steps to repair them; in fact, we are repairing them.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Sir, I am referring to the Taj Mahal. It is widely reported that some cracks are found on the surface of the building. I would like to know whether such cracks have been found by the Ministry and whether they are surface cracks or they have something to do with the foundation.

PROF. SHER SINGH: It is a normal thing. Some cracks do take place somewhere. (*Interruptions.*) I told you at the beginning that we get it checked. The last checking was done by the experts and repairs are going on almost every year.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Sir, he has not answered my point. I do agree with him that there are cracks even in the Government Cabinet. But what

I would like to know is whether it has got something to do with the foundation or not.

PROF. SHER SINGH: The foundations are very strong. It has been checked and there is no danger, as I have been saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

STRIKE BY THE STAFF OF THE HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LTD.

*577. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what were the demands on which the staff of the Hindustan Shipyards Ltd., went on strike during September/October last year;

(b) what were the terms of settlement on which the strike was called off;

(c) whether there was any specific assurance that a separate sub-committee of the Engineering Wage Board would be constituted to go into the service conditions and submit a report within six months;

(d) if so, whether the said sub-committee has submitted its report; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The demands were:

(1) (i) Revision of the structure of total emoluments;

(ii) Grant of Dearness Allowance in relation to cost of living;

(iii) Grant of Yard Allowance;

(iv) Grant of Cash handling allowance;

(v) Grant of Out-door Allowance;

(vi) Grant of Medical Reimbursement;

(vii) Grant of Leave Travel Concession; and