

interest to give the information. We the Members of Parliament have otherwise to privately pry into their affairs and try to know how investments are made. I would like to know whether it is going to be an open book. I am asking this because we had an occasion in the past to find that the investments were badly made in the Mundhra affairs. Is that right of the House going to be denied to it?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, we seek your protection. It is a very vital matter. Is the House not entitled to know the investments of the LIC?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has replied as best as he could.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. D. MANI: On a point of order, Sir. I want your ruling. This is a matter where the House is entitled to certain information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I say 'Next question', whether I am right or wrong, I shall not allow any more supplementaries.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Then, Sir, we want a discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different matter. You can make that representation to me.

*270. [The questioner (Shri M. V. Bhadram) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2059 infra.]

TEESTA BARRAGE PROJECT

*271. SHRI CHITTA BASTI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on the Teesta Barrage Project is under the consideration of the Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SHIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Considerable investigations spread over the last fifteen years have been done on the Teesta Barrage Project. It has been programmed to phase the project and investigations with regard to these are being done by West Bengal Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It appears from the reply that the investigation has been carried on for the last 15 years but it has not been made completely clear whether the Government has so far accepted the report. May I know whether the report has been accepted and, if so, what are the essential features of the project?

DR. K. L. RAO: We have not been able to arrive at any definite conclusion. This project has a potential for irrigation, power and navigation but unfortunately, it is costing very much and therefore, it is that more of data and investigations are being done to evolve a project which is possible for us to undertake within our financial resources.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is it not a fact that the Teesta Barrage Project, if implemented, will go a long way to step up the food production in Bengal and will also control the floods which is an annual phenomenon in a large part of North Bengal territory? In view of this and in view of the interest taken by the Government of India, will they take care to see that in the interest of Bengal, the project report is finalised at an early date? Will they also see that the work is started in the Fourth Plan?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is true that this project has a potential of irrigation for 2 million acres. «-> far as

flood control is concerned, it will not have much effect because it is only a Barrage Project but the financial requirement of the project being very high, we are trying to find out whether we can evolve an economical project which will be possible for us to undertake. It is rather difficult to say whether this will be taken up in the Fourth Plan.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether this project itself will be Centrally sponsored or will it be a project to be shared by the State Government also?

DR. K. L. RAO: It is too early to say who will finance it but generally all these projects are done by the States and only for important projects the Central Government gives 100 per cent, loan assistance.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUMANIA FOR FERTILISER FACTORIES

*272. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations are in progress with Rumania regarding the setting up of fertiliser factories in the country; and

(b) what is the agricultural machinery which is available in Rumania on rupee payment terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is understood that wheel tractors, agricultural crawler tractors and agricultural implements are available in Rumania. It is, however, not clear if they are suitable for Indian conditions.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Rumanian Ambassador made a statement in Delhi—and it was on that basis that this question was tabled—that Rumania can set up a fertilizer

factory in this country. Has no approach been made from the side of the Embassy of Rumania on the subject or have the Government not started any negotiations on this?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: There has been no formal approach as such. It was only during the course of some discussion that there was an indication that Rumania would be interested and then they mentioned Haldia. But in respect of Haldia as apart from certain other proposals, there is already a Polish proposal in collaboration with a French firm. They did not pursue it further.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I have an idea about the Polish proposal in collaboration with a French firm?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH: Full details are being awaited. They did not give us all the details and we are awaiting them.

TRANSHIPMENT OF NEPAL MICA THROUGH INDIAN PORTS

*52. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Mica is being transhipped by the steamers through Indian Ports;

(b) if so, what quantity was transhipped by Nepal during the last year through these ports; and

(c) what are the other items being transhipped by Nepal through these ports; and the quantities of each item transhipped during the last year?

-†Transferred from the 14th February, 1968.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni,