

taking steps to prevent the adulteration of atta and many other foodstuffs?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM That is what I have stated. We have got a very rigorous law. It is a question of implementation. As a matter of fact, this question should be put to my colleague, the Health Minister, who is in charge of the subject.

MR CHAIRMAN All practical difficulties are there.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE May I know whether this atta was imported or it was made in the country?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM Produced in the country.

WATER ROUTE BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND ASSAM *via* BURMA

*251.

SHRI CHITTA BASU †

SHRI D L SEN GUPTA

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have any proposal under consideration for opening a water-route between Calcutta and Assam *via* Burma, and

(b) if so, by when the scheme is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRI C. M. POONACHA).

(a) and (b) The feasibility of such a proposition has not been considered.

SHRI CHITTA BASU. May I know whether a survey is being conducted in substitution of another scheme for linking the Ganga and the Brahmaputra *via* Bengal and Assam?

SHRI C M POONACHA The question relates to a proposal made for a water route between Calcutta and Assam *via* Burma. One article appeared, published by an hon. Member of Parliament, Shri G. G. Swell. This matter was looked into and then it was found on preliminary enquiries that the River Kaladan which flows through the Mizo District does not permit naviga-

tion. It has about 50 to 70 rapids, which makes navigation a bit difficult. The other proposal is for a railway connection up to the point of Longmasu. And another one is a road construction. On preliminary examinations, both these seem to be not feasible for the reason that the railway would cost about Rs. 60 crores and the road would cost about Rs. 15 crores.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether the Government is in a position to take up immediately the implementation of another scheme of linking the Brahmaputra and the Ganga—that is the scheme—to connect Bengal and Assam?

SHRI C M POONACHA This seems to be a totally different suggestion. We will certainly examine it if a pointed reference is made.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR. May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that a certain proposal is put before the Government that the Mizo Hills District should be connected with the Bay of Bengal through a river which flows *via* Burma and that this proposal has been sponsored by certain foreign countries and that the blessings of the World Bank are also there for this proposal? May I know whether the Government is aware of such a proposal?

SHRI C M POONACHA No, Sir.

‡IRRIGATION THROUGH UNDERGROUND PIPES

*94 SHRI M. C. SHAH Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new method of irrigation through underground irrigation pipes is to be launched shortly in four districts of Punjab, and

(b) if so, what are the special advantages of this method of irrigation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The method of irrigation through underground pipes is already in vogue in some of the districts in the Punjab.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu.

‡Transferred from the 7th May, 1966.