

SHRI SHAM NATH: The officers who are charged with this kind of work, surveyed this project also.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know, Sir, whether they were influenced by the road transport operators, the lorry operators of that area, to give such a report?

SHRI SHAM NATH: Not at all.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Did you make any enquiries whether the lorry operators influenced them?

SHRI SHAM NATH: The figures are there to show that this line would be unremunerative. We have got the estimate of return on the capital investment. In the sixth year it will be (minus) 1.9 per cent, and in the eleventh year it will be (minus) 1.1 per cent. The assessment is so clear that the question of imputing any motive does not arise.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to give some more details of this traffic survey report?

SHRI SHAM NATH: I could supply as much information as the hon. Member wants.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know this from the Minister. He made a categorical statement that the operators have not influenced the officers concerned, and then he quoted figures. I would like to know from him whether any enquiry was conducted as to whether these operators influenced these officers and tried to get the figures concocted, because this is what they usually do and the Minister just comes to such a conclusion and makes a categorical statement.

SHRI SHAM NATH: It is not once that a survey was conducted for this project. The survey initiated as early as in 1889 revealed that it would not be remunerative, and later on, as a result of the survey initiated in 1950 and completed during 1957-58 the

same report was made that it would not be remunerative. So the question of doubting the *bona fides* of people who submitted their findings does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RESUMPTION OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

*186. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether normal trade and economic relations with Pakistan have since been resumed;

(b) if so, from which date the relations have been resumed and the amount of trade done between two countries from that date; and

(c) if no trade relations have so far been resumed, when it is proposed to resume the trade relations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

A. Delegation at Ministerial level is expected to visit Pakistan shortly to discuss, among other things, the question of restoration of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

PURCHASE OF IRON ORE BY JAPAN

*187. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is healing to enter into long-term contract for the bulk purchase of Iron