

at the rate of three to four thousand tons per month in Indian ships. Perhaps, occasionally we may be able to import one full ship load by Indian ships. Sir, we have also given instructions that Indian ships would have to be preferred for the 50 per cent. that is left to us.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that it was pointed out some time ago by a shipping expert committee which was appointed, I think in 1947-48, by the Cabinet of that time that even if you have to buy ships we would be realising the capital amount that we would be spending on that account in the course of 3½ years? If that calculation is correct, and when the Government know that they have to import so much foodgrains over so much period, what steps are the Government taking in the direction of developing Indian shipping?

**SHRI S. K. PATIL:** Let this question be appropriately addressed to the Transport Ministry. The Minister has replied more than once in both the Houses what the position is. We have a little while ago said that if the Transport Ministry and the Food Ministry—which always work together—really did something about it and gave a greater allocation, if not for outright chartering but with the ultimate aim of buying etc., it would be better. These are trials worth making, and I think the efforts in that direction are in progress.

**SHRI B. K. P. SINHA:** Is it a fact, Sir, that American freight rates are higher than the normal rates?

**SHRI A. M. THOMAS:** It is almost double but it does not matter to us because the American Government itself finds money for that purpose.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Sir, I am glad that there is cooperation between the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Transport . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There is co-operation among all the members of the Cabinet.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** I think yesterday there was a different view. Today it is another view. Anyway, you may be knowing better. May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister—now the Food Minister—was aware as the Minister of Communications some months ago that there were reports in the American press that this arrangement under P. L. 480 was to be taken advantage of by these shipping junks that were lying there because it would mean good business for them, and that must be made a condition for any kind of deals with India or any other countries?

**SHRI S. K. PATIL:** When we are expecting grains from other countries we cannot make hundred conditions, viz. that not only grain must be given but that only our ships should be used for that purpose. This seems to be very extraordinary.

#### ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RAILWAYS IN THE SEALDAH DIVISION

76. { **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA†:**  
**DR. Z. A. AHMAD:**  
**SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for the electrification of the railways in the Sealdah Division under the Third Five Year Plan has been abandoned;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same;

(c) what is the total number of daily passengers in this Division who have to come to Calcutta or go out of the city in connection with their work; and

(d) whether representatives of the public were consulted in regard to the question of electrification of the railways in this Division?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):**

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Daily average number of passengers.

Incoming 88,272

Outgoing 87,251

(d) No, Sir.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** In answer to part (a) the hon. Deputy Minister seems to have given a negative answer. Therefore I take it that this is under the Plan and is under consideration. May I know why there is so much of delay when it is being systematically pointed out by experts and others that in order to relieve congestion in Calcutta and make it also convenient for the vast number of daily passengers, this Sealdah section should be immediately brought under the electrification scheme?

**SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN:** There is no delay in the matter. For the electrification of railway lines, a lot of equipment is required, a lot of rolling stock is required and a lot of electric power is also required. They are making arrangements for all that and the hon. Member would be glad to know that we have already started the civil engineering works on the Sealdah division.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question hour is over.

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same;

(c) what is the total number of

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

have to come to the city in connection with their

**EXPRESS DELIVERY SERVICE**

\*61. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to make the "Express Delivery" service more effective;

(b) whether it is proposed in this connection to raise the Express Delivery charges; and

(c) if so, when the new rates will likely come into force?

(b) whether it is proposed in this connection to raise the Express Delivery charges; and

(c) if so, when the new rates will likely come into force?

likely come into force?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN):**

(a) No.

(b) The question is still under consideration and various steps required to improve the system are being worked out to ensure improvement and to arrive at the cost of the revised Scheme. The charges would depend on the improvement to be effected and cost involved.

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?

likely come into force?