

है। दूसरे कितने मरीच आये, कितने चले गये, इसका हिसाब मेरे पास आज नहीं है। जिन जिन इलाकों में लेपरोसी का फैलाव ज्यादा है उन सब को कवर करने के लिये यह सबसीडियरी सेंट्रल स्कीम है। इसमें ऐसा प्रयत्न किया गया है कि हर सेंटर के पसुलेशन की परीक्षा ली जाय और जो सफर करता हो उसका ट्रीटमेंट किया जाय।

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मिनिस्टर महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या कोई खास इलाके ऐसे हैं जिनमें लेपरोसी का ज्यादा जोर है ?

श्री डी० पी० करमरकर : जी हां मद्रास, आंध्र और उड़ीसा के इलाके में लेपरोसी का खास तौर से ज्यादा फैलाव है। पंजाब के इलाके में लेपरोसी का फैलाव कम है।

•130. [The questioner (Shri Kishori Ram) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 579-81 infra.]

**CONSTRUCTION OF A BARRAGE AND BRIDGE
ACROSS THE GANGES AT FARAKKA**

•131. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for constructing a barrage and bridge across the Ganges at Farakka in the district of Murshidabad in West Bengal has been sanctioned; and

(b) if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Project has not yet been fully investigated.

DR. A. N. BOSE: The first part is, "No." The second part?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The second is that the Project has not yet been fully investigated.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is it not a fact that the Project has been technically examined for the last 13 years or more successively by the Ganga-Brahmaputra River Board, by the Port Commissioners' experts by the Committee on Floods of 1956 and then by the German expert, Mr. Hansen and all these committees and experts have-unanimously recommended the early implementation of this Project?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: So far as all the bodies which have been mentioned in the question are concerned, they have come to a conclusion in regard to this scheme about its general phase. The details of it have further to be examined, which has not yet been done.

DR. A. N. BOSE: I fail to understand how the details still remain to be examined after so many commissions and so many experts have successively gone thoroughly into this question for the last 12 or 13 years.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: To be on surer ground, this question was referred to several bodies in the face of general questions about it. They have examined the same thing and they have expressed opinions about some points.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Government feel any urgency in the matter?

(No reply)

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is it a fact that the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Council during last July had unanimously passed resolutions for the early undertaking of this Project?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Yes, Sir

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is it a fact that the West Bengal Irrigation Minister had asked for a copy of the Hansen Report and that he did not get any?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Yes, that is correct. But that Report...

DR. A. N. BOSE: Why did he not furnish a copy of the Report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question was, he asked for a copy of the Report he was not supplied.

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: I was just going to say about it. He asked for the Report. The Report was under examination here. There was only one copy, not a printed one, but written or typed. That could not be sent to any one.

DR. A. N. BOSE: What is the difficulty in having it typed and sent to the Irrigation Minister of West Bengal who is vitally concerned with this affair?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: It is a voluminous one.

DR. A. N. BOSE: What?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, it is a voluminous one.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the hon. Minister aware that while this interminable investigation is going on the river is fast dying out with immense prospect of damage to the Calcutta Port beyond the possibility of repair?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: The Calcutta Port, Sir, forms one single item of this question. There are several others which are connected with this scheme. Therefore, naturally, it is being taken, which is not unjustified.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO: What is the truth behind the report which has appeared in some of the papers that a Minister of the Central Government stated recently that the Government of India would welcome the co-operation of Pakistan engineers in the formulation of this scheme and also that India would have no objection to international supervision of its construction?

SHRI R. K. PATIL: May I, Sir, with your permission, say that the hon.

Member is mixing irrigation with navigation. It was in reply to a question regarding navigation, which is not connected to the reply just given by my hon. colleague. These two things are quite apart.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know what effort the hon. Minister proposes to make to ensure that the only copy available is not lost in any flood in Delhi?

(No reply)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the answer that the hon. Minister has given is that there is only one typed copy. Evidently he has not seen whether it is a typed copy or a hand-written one. And therefore it could not be sent. Now, Sir, do I understand that this is the only reason why the copy is not being sent? Let him answer this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking. Is that the reason why the copy has not been sent—that you have only one copy and no copies are taken of it?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Sir, the records have been lost.

(Interruption.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether the Government is facing any difficulty in this matter with regard to this scheme other than that of a technical nature?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: The question of any difficulty does not arise at all. The Government are examining only the technical point of view and the financial point of view, and when they are satisfied . . .

(Interruption.)

DR. A. N. BOSE: Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of the grave consequences to the economy of West Bengal as a result of not undertaking and

implementing this scheme very early, because there would be a total breakdown of railway communications and water supply?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: Sir, Government are fully alive to the needs of West Bengal in regard to this scheme, and I can assure my friends in this House that whatever is necessary for them will be done in due course.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या यह बात सच है कि जब प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब कलकत्ता गये थे तो इस बारे में कोई निदर्शन हुआ था और क्या प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब से कुछ निवेदन किया गया था। उसका क्या जवाब दिया गया है, कृपा करके क्या आप बतला सकते हैं ?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: We have no information about that, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I want to ask one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more question. Dr. Gour.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then, Sir, I give notice now and here that this question be discussed, because I think, Sir, the Central Government is deliberately doing this thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. Dr. Gour.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION.

*132. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to offer the Chairmanship of the Indian Airlines Corporation to a non-official; and

(b) if so, whether any offer has been made to any person?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I know, Sir, the qualifications of the person who is sought to be appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Airlines Corporation?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Sir, there is no question of qualifications for a person who is to be the Chairman, but since he is going to preside over an aviation company, he should know something about aviation and he should otherwise be a respectable person.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: What are the reasons for changing the present person?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: He is an official, and now he has gone to the other department. The Estimates Committee has recommended that as far as possible, a non-official should be appointed as Chairman.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that an offer has been made to Mr. J. R. D. Tata to accept the chairmanship of this body?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is a fact. I do not call it an offer. But Mr. J. R. D. Tata has been requested to accept the chairmanship.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Has he accepted the offer?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is under negotiation, Sir. But mostly we are hoping that he will accept it.

PAKISTAN PLANE CRASH AT PALAM

*133. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who died in the Pakistan plane crash at Palam in the month of May, 1958; and