

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is it a fact that some 48 elevators valued at Rs. 75 lakhs have come and only 7 were put up last year and the rest are not yet put up and are not likely to be put up in the near future?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They are not put up because the necessary materials could not reach here. Recently, things were imported at a rapid speed and I hope this work of putting up cranes etc. will be completed within the next few months time.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: When will this minor port become a major port? There is tremendous unemployment there. Will this minor port become a major one at least in twelve months time?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is a major port already.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: That is only on paper, Sir.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It will have to be on paper; I mean the declaration is always made on paper, unless it is so declared by me by mouth. Of course, the main problem there, as Prof. Malkani knows, is one of traffic. The port should have traffic and more traffic. But shipping companies generally want to go to Bombay, Calcutta or Madras. They do not want to go to Kandla or other ports. We have made a suggestion to the Commerce and Industry Ministry that possibly when contracts are entered into for imports from abroad, two ports should be mentioned for discharge in India, say, Bombay/Kandla or Vizag/Kandla. That might help us.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: When I approach the Railway Ministry they advise me to see the Transport Ministry and when I see the Transport Minister I am advised to see the Railway Minister. Whom should I see, may I ask the hon. Minister?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I have not advised the hon. Member to see the Railway Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not see any Minister on this.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: What is the total cost incurred on this Kandla port? What is the cost of constructing the Kandla port?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The cost originally estimated was Rs. 12*95 crores. But it is now estimated to cost about Rs. 2 crores more, i.e. Rs. 14-23 crores.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is this port still in the process of completion?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is still in the process of completion. Two berths are still to be built.

SHRI AKHTAR HUSAIN: Have Government taken any steps to see that the intended imports of food-grains are unloaded at the Kandla port, especially those which are intended to serve the areas in Uttar Pradesh and other places?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The Food Ministry was persuaded to accept that. But then there was some difficulty from the Railway side, because if the food is to be carried by rail from Kandla port, it has to be carried on the meter gauge and as there are difficulties felt by the Railways in that matter, it has not been possible to divert many ships to Kandla. But two or three ships were diverted to Kandla port. I am glad to say that the Railways have now agreed to carry as much of the foodgrains as possible to Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar from Kandla port and I think ships will be going there.

***319. [For answer, vide cols. 1677-78 infra.]**

***320 and *321. [The questioner (Shri Deokinandan Narayan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1683—85 infra.]**

***322. [The questioner (Shri V. K. Dhage) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1685 infra.]**

***323. [Postponed to the 12th December, 1957.]**

**SENDING OF A THREE-MAN MISSION
ABROAD FOR PURCHASING MECHANICAL
EQUIPMENT FOR THE INDIAN PORTS**

*324. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1376 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 10th September, 1957 and state:

- (a) whether the three-man mission has since been sent abroad for purchasing mechanical equipment necessary for the Indian ports;
- (b) if so, what countries the mission is likely to visit; and
- (c) what is the estimated value of the equipment proposed to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands.
- (c) About Rs. 1 crore.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the equipments which are intended to be purchased are to be used for relieving the congestion in the existing ports or are they required for setting up new ports and for the development and expansion of the existing ports?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There is no congestion at present in the major ports. This equipment will be given mostly to the existing ports for their improvement and development.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Am I to understand that they are intended for relieving the congestion in the existing ports?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes, but I won't say that it is congestion. In fact there is little of mechanisation of these major ports. We do require many cranes, electrical trolleys etc. for these ports and these equipments

will be mostly for Calcutta and a few for the other ports also.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether this mission is not going to negotiate for the purchase of machinery or mechanical equipments for ports which are going to be developed shortly?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: In the development of ports there are two parts. So far as the construction of berths, jetties, etc. is concerned, that will have to be done locally. So far as the provision of cranes etc. is concerned, they have to be purchased by this mission and where there is shortage of these equipments that will be provided by us after these have been received from foreign countries.

**VISIT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION TO
AFGHANISTAN**

*300. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an agricultural delegation recently visited Afghanistan; and
- (b) if so, what are its recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

**FOUR-SEATER AUTO-RICKSHAWS ETC. IN
DELHI**

*301. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD):

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the present number of (i) four-seater and two-seater auto-rickshaws and (ii) cycle-rickshaws licensed in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The present number of