

Return of Tibetans

3382. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the Peoples Republic of China has invited the Tibetans in India to come back to Tibet, there has been a demand from Tibetans to leave the Tibetan Camp in India;

(b) if so, what is the estimated number of Tibetans who have taken advantage of this offer by People's Republic of China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) and (b). As was made clear by the Minister of External Affairs in Parliament on the 21st February, 1979 if the Tibetans consider that the conditions are suitable for their return to the places of their origin, Government of India would not stand in their way in doing so. As far as the Government is aware, no Tibetans have so far gone back to re-settle in the place of their origin.

Puri-Konarak Marine Road in Orissa

3383. SHRI PADMACHARAN SAMANTSINHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Government has received representation from Orissa and is considering to construct the Puri-Konarak marine road in Orissa (of which the work is constructed up to three miles) within the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the amount provided for this Puri-Konarak marine road in Orissa and what is the total estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Puri-Konark Marine Road, when construct-

ed, would be a State Road, Orissa Government are, therefore, primarily concerned with this Project. However, sometime back they had requested for a grant-in-aid towards 50 per cent of the cost of this road amounting to Rs 3.04 crores. This was examined and due to financial constraints the Orissa Government was asked to review and limit the scope to development of the road as single-lane road with link roads costing Rs. 146 lakhs. This modified proposal has not been sent by Orissa Government so far.

Switching over of Indian Exporters to Non-Indian Shipping Lines

3384. SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Exporters are gradually switching to non-Indian Shipping Lines and if so, the reasons thereof; and

(b) the steps Government propose to help promote the use of Indian Shipping Lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). It will not be correct to say that Indian exporters are switching over to non-Indian shipping lines. Indian exporters generally utilise Conference vessels, which may be Indian or foreign vessels of a Conference of which Indian shipping lines are members. There may be occasions when they utilise non-Conference/non-Indian vessels because of lower freight or rebate offered or non-availability of Indian vessels at a given time, with a view to adhering to their delivery schedules. Through various media and forums like All India Shippers' Council and its regional Associations Government persuades and appeals to private Indian shippers to patronise Indian vessels. Instructions exist and have recently been reiterated that