

Shipping Corporation of India has already taken physical possession of these two vessels. However, the proposal for final approval of this acquisition is under submission to the appraising agencies. The proposal in respect of 30,000 DWT Product-cum-Edible Oil Carriers has been received only recently.

### **Strike by Telephone Employees in Hyderabad**

5547. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a lightening strike of telephone employees in Hyderabad in the first week of February, 1990;

(b) if so, the cause for the strike;

(c) the demand of the telephone employees who were on strike; and

(d) the reaction of Govt. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. There was however a relay hunger strike by a small section of employees.

(b), (c) and (d). Does not arise as under the I.D. Act, it was not a strike.

### **Long term Pricing Policy on Spices and Cash Crops**

5548. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to have a long-term policy on the production and price structure of the spices and other cash crops like Pepper, Ginger, Nutmeg, Coconut etc:

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). As a long-term measure, schemes are under implementation to increase the production of spices and also coconut. An Integrated Programme for the development of spices and schemes for production of hybrid seed coconuts, expansion of area under coconut, increasing the productivity of cocount etc. are being implemented.

As regards long-term policy on the price structure, the Government is considering the feasibility of extending price support measures for the horticultural crops. Copra has already been brought under Price Support Scheme form 1989 season. During the current year the Support Price for coconut has been fixed at Rs. 1600/- per quintal for FAQ and Rs. 1550/- per quintal for one grade below FAQ.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

### **Foreign Minister's Visit to China**

5549. DR. BENGALI SINGH:  
SHRI SHIEO SHARAN  
VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of China has invited him to visit China; and

(b) if so, when he propose to visit to China and the purpose thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Mutually convenient dates, for such visits, are settled through diplomatic channels. This visit, when it takes place, will be part of our ongoing dialogue with China on matters of mutual concern.

[English]

**Opening of Post Offices in Pauri Garhwal Chamoli and other Hill Districts in U. P.**

5550. SHRI C. M. NEGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>District</i>
1.	Utinda	Pauri
2.	Kulaun	Almora
3.	Doonar	Almora
4.	Ratura	Chamoli

**Construction of Bridge over Kanhar River in U. P.**

5551. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for the construction of bridge over Kanhar river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the exact date by which the construction of the bridge is likely to be completed?

(a) whether it is proposed to open some new branch post offices and sub-post offices in Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli and other hill districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the names of places district-wise where branches and sub-post offices are to be opened during 1990-91?

**THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN):** (a) and (b). It is proposed to open four branch post offices in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. These are as follows:-

**THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme for construction of Kanhar bridge on Dudh-Wyndhamganj road in District Mirzapur was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 187.835 lakhs under the programme proportion by the Union Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Any excess over the sanctioned cost is to be borne entirely by the State Government.

(c) The bridge is likely to be completed in March, 1991.