

**Development of Forests**

- \*398. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**  
**Shri Hukam Chand**  
**Kachhvaliya:**  
**Dr. Chandrabhan Singh:**  
**Shri Parashar:**  
**Shri Chandak:**  
**Shri Mahesh Dutta Misra:**  
**Shri J. P. Jyotishi:**  
**Shrimati Minimata:**  
**Shri Dajl:**  
**Shri Wadiwa:**  
**Shri R. S. Tiwary:**  
**Shri Bade:**  
**Shri A. S. Saigal:**  
**Shri Shiva Dutt Upadhyaya:**  
**Shri U. M. Trivedi:**  
**Shri R. S. Pandey:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 763 on the 21st September, 1965 and state;

(a) whether Government have started the survey work of the under-developed forest areas of 11,500 sq. miles in the nine States;

(b) if so, how many miles of under-developed forest area in Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be surveyed;

(c) when the survey work is likely to finish; and

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have been informed about the areas to be surveyed and the assistance needed from the State Government in the survey work?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) on behalf of the Minister of Food and Agriculture:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to survey a total area of about 7,200 sq. miles in the Central zone of which roughly 3500 sq. miles would be in Madhya Pradesh but the specific area to be covered in each State is not yet delimited.

(c) The Project is expected to be completed in 1968.

(d) The extent of the areas for survey have been proposed in consultation with the State Forest authorities. The State Government's assistance will be required in the provision of basic information for the survey and in the actual field operations. The State Government's co-operation would also be needed in the deputation of their officers for manning posts in the Project. The State Government has agreed to provide necessary assistance.

**Bengal-Assam Steamer Service**

- \*399. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:**  
**Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**

Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any likelihood of the River Steam Navigation Co. being able to resume its services between Bengal and Assam;

(b) if not, whether any schemes have been made for alternative use of the Company's fleet, dockyard and other resources; and

(c) whether the River Steam Navigation Company's Indian employees will be retained in service, retrenched or absorbed elsewhere?

**The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The question of resumption of the river service depends upon the creation of conditions in which the service could be operated unhindered and safely. The services shall certainly be resumed as soon as such conditions are ensured.

(b) A part of the fleet of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company is at present being utilised for internal services in Assam. Certain Schemes for making use of the fleet available in the West Bengal region have been proposed and are under consideration. As regards the Rajabagan Dockyard, steps are being taken to ensure fuller utilisation of the capacity by securing outside orders.