

maximum speed of coastal ships is only eleven knots in India;

(b) whether the new ships proposed to be purchased are also of the same speed; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to direct the shipping concerns to purchase ships of higher speed rate?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No. Sir. The speed of our coastal ships ranges from 7 knots to 17 knots.

(b) and (c). It is for the Shipping Companies to decide the speed of the vessels to be acquired, having regard to the nature of the trade, economics of operation, facilities at the ports to be touched, etc. However, by experience it has been found that ships with an average speed of 9 to 10 knots serve adequately the needs of the Indian Coastl Trade.

#### Deepening of Ganges for Navigation

**\*1263. Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to deepen the river Ganges from West Bengal to Allahabad city for the purposes of navigation; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to take the work in hand?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Western Kosi Canal

**\*1264.** { Shri Priya Gupta:  
Shri Jogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Kosi Canal had been inaugurated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tenders were invited for the execution of this canal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to agitation in Nepal the work of execution of this canal has been delayed; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to expedite the work?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan):** (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The local people in Nepal territory have demanded that the present alignment of the canal be pushed further north in order that a larger area may be commanded. The Kosi Project authorities are making every effort to settle the matter in consultation with the authorities concerned of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

#### Manufacture of Steel Converter

**\*1265. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new type of steel converter has been manufactured entirely in an Ajmer Workship; and

(b) whether its working has proved satisfactory?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) A steel converted was manufactured by Ajmer Workshops in the year 1913 for use in the Steel Foundry in the Carriage Wagon Workshop at Ajmer. An additional converter of a similar type incorporating certain improvements has recently been manufactured entirely at Ajmer Workshops and brought into commission early this year.

(b) The new converter is working satisfactorily.

#### Hybrid Maize Seed

**\*1266. Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by any Government agency to

evolve some cheap and simplified method of producing Hybrid Maize Seed, which the farmers can easily learn, and carry out the entire process on their own farms;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to popularize this method amongst the farmers; and

(c) if the seed cannot be produced at the farm level, what steps are being taken by Government to remove its acute shortage, and to make it easily available and at a reasonably low price?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) The known standard method of producing hybrid maize is being used in large compact blocks by setting up cooperatives of farmers. Production on fields of isolated farmers is not possible because of the cross fertilized nature of maize.

(b) The following steps are being taken to help the seed producers:—

(i) Expert knowledge and literature from I.C.A.R. and the Rockefeller Foundation, which is collaborating in the maize programme, is being provided to the farmers entering this business.

(ii) The foundation seed produced directly under the aegis of the I.C.A.R. is being supplied to the farmers for the production of the double cross hybrid.

(c) The Government of India has decided to set up National Seeds Corporation which will produce hybrid maize seed to cover 25% of the total maize acreage during the Third Plan period.

#### **International Telex Service**

**\*1267, Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Telex Service between India and Israel has recently been launched; and

(b) if so, the cost thereof?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):**

(a) Yes, from the 14th May, 1962.

(b) No extra expenditure has been incurred, as the Service has been provided by extending the existing direct Telex Link with London to Israel.

#### **Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi**

**\*1268, Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of patients per day being treated on the physiotherapy unit of the Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, during January, February, March and April, 1962;

(b) whether the number of patients is on the increase;

(c) the number of persons on the staff of the physiotherapy unit;

(d) whether Government consider the number of persons on the staff adequate to deal with the number of patients; and

(e) if not, what steps Government propose to take to meet the increasing demands in the unit?

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) January, 1962—83; February, 1962—113; March, 1962—123 and April, 1962—147.

(b) Yes.

(c) Three.

(d) and (e). The question of increasing the number of persons on the staff is under consideration.

#### **Export of Milch Cattle**

**\*1269, Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of milch cattle (cows and buffaloes) that were exported from India during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to restrict the export of these valuable milch cattle?