

State of Andamans" in Hindustan Ship Yard;

(b) what is the actual cost so far incurred in the construction of the said Ship;

(c) whether this Ship has been handed over to Ministry of Home Affairs for service;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for not handing it over so far;

(e) whether any defects were noticed in the building of the Ship as soon as it was launched; and

(f) if so, what were the defects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Rs. 125 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 143.45 lakhs.

(c) The ship has been dry-docked at Calcutta and is expected to be delivered within the next few days.

(d) to (f). The delay was due to certain deficiencies. The deficiencies noticed in the vessel have been rectified by providing a temporary ballast.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What were the deficiencies which were discovered?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I said, the deficiency was a certain lack of stability which has been rectified by providing some temporary ballast.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the expenditure incurred on rectifying this deficiency?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The expenditure is expected to be negligible as 2,000 tons of steel plates, which were available with the Hindustan Shipyard, have been rivetted. Afterwards, they will be taken away.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could I know if the responsibility for the deficiency can be foisted on the French consultant company, which has not got a very satisfactory record of work in the Shipyard, and if so, if there is any

clause in the agreement which would enable us to get some satisfaction?

Shri Humayun Kabir: A Committee of Inquiry has been appointed with the Chief Surveyor to the Government of India and two other experts to go into the question. After the responsibility has been fixed, necessary action will be taken.

Shri Vajpayee: When is the report of the Inquiry Committee expected?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Committee was appointed on the 27th September and we must give it at least two or three months.

Shri Anthony Pillai: What was the original estimate of the carrying capacity of this vessel and what is its carrying capacity now? Also, what would be the potential loss in earning because of the lower carrying capacity?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I would ask for notice.

Shri N. R. Munsamy: Who are the persons constituting the Committee? Are the French consultants also represented on the Committee?

Shri Humayun Kabir: No, it consists of the Chief Surveyor to the Government of India, Shri Bose, Commander Dayasankar of the Indian Navy and Shri Gokuldas of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company.

Food Production

*437. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each Zonal Council in the country is required to contribute to the national pool of food production during the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what is the quota or the target fixed for each Zonal Council; and

(c) what kind of assistance is given to each State by the Centre to fulfil the target?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The question regarding the contribution to the national pool of food production during the Second Five Year Plan period by the States comprising each Zone has not so far been considered by Zonal Councils.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Sanganna: In view of the country-wide drought situation, do Government propose any change in the food production programme in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We want to intensify the grow more food campaign and try to reach the target envisaged in the Second Plan.

Shri Sanganna: What long-term and short-term measures have been proposed to the State Government in order to accelerate the food production drive of the country?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is a question about the discussions in the Zonal Councils and I have replied that it was not discussed there.

Shri Panigrahi: In view of the Prime Minister's declaration that we should have an additional 15 million ton foodgrains during the Second Plan, may I know whether the Zonal Councils have been given quotas to meet this target?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, 15.5 millions of additional foodgrains are to be produced in the Second Plan period. We want to reach that target. We are trying to spend money for that.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether quotas have been fixed for various States.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, that has been done.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government are going to set up any special machinery to increase food production in the country? Or are they going to depend on the machinery which exists at present,

namely, the grow more food machinery?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Government have already an effective organisation. The responsibility mainly lies upon the State Governments, and the extension work is done by the Ministry of Community Development. I do not know what other machinery the hon. Member has in mind.

City Compensatory Allowance

*443. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the National Federation of Post and Telegraph Employees for upgrading Madurai, Agra and such cities for purposes of house rent and compensatory allowances; and

(b) if so, action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes.

(b) Government have appointed a Commission of inquiry to examine the entire structure of emoluments of the Central Government employees.

Shri Tangamani: Madurai and Agra, two important cities, pilgrim centres, also with a growing population, are still placed under 'C', and representation has been made for several years to upgrade them. May I know whether a definite decision has been taken about Madurai and Agra?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The whole question is under examination by the Commission and, therefore, no interim or ad hoc decision can be taken at this stage.

Shri Tangamani: So far as Madurai is concerned, is the hon. Minister aware that the working cost of living index in Madurai is generally much higher than that in Madras which is at a higher grade?