

for the purchase of ships built at the Visakhapatnam Yard:—

(1) Rs. 26,40,000 to Messrs. Great Eastern Shipping Company Limited for the purchase of S.S. "Jagrani".

(2) Rs. 44,50,000 to Messrs. Bharat Line Limited for the purchase of S.S. "Bharatmitra".

(3) Rs. 29,50,000 have been sanctioned to Messrs. Bharat Line Limited for the purchase of S.S. "Bharatratna" which was launched on the 26th August 1953 and is now being fitted out. A further sum of Rs. 9,83,333 will be paid when the ship is delivered.

HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD

*1159. Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Shri N. R. Pillai, Chairman of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, at the recent annual meeting of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, regarding payment of subsidy by Government to the Hindustan Shipyard;

(b) if so, whether Government have now accepted the policy of subsidising the ships built at the Visakhapatnam Shipyards on these lines; and

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to subsidise the building of ships in India when the ship-building company is run by Government and not by private enterprise?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Government have been following the policy of subsidising shipbuilding at Visakhapatnam Yard for some time and have paid a subsidy on every ship built at the yard so far. The formation of the shipyard company in which the Government now have the controlling interest has made no difference to the policy.

FLATS FOR M. Ps.

*1160. Shri B. N. Misra: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many more flats for M. Ps. at North and South Avenue, New Delhi are to be constructed and when will they be ready?

(b) What are the types of flats that are being constructed now?

(c) What are the items of fixtures that are being provided in the new flats?

(d) Have those fixtures been provided till now in all the flats which have been handed over for occupation to the M. Ps.?

(e) What are the items of furniture that have to be supplied in these flats when a fully furnished flat is given?

(f) What is the total value of the furniture including curtains and chinks etc., which are required for furnishing a newly constructed flat?

(g) What is the basis on which the rent of the furniture supplied at the flats, are arrived at?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The question of construction of 104 new flats for M.Ps. is under consideration. These will be ready within a year from the date from which the work is started.

(b) 'B' and 'C' type flats have recently been constructed and completed.

(c) The usual items of electrical and sanitary fittings have been provided as fixtures in the flats now constructed.

(d) Yes, Sir. There is no change in "fixtures".

(e) A statement containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 58].

(f) The cost of furniture supplied to these flats are:—

'B' type .. Rs. 1,756/- per unit.

'C' type .. Rs. 1,865/- per unit.

(g) The rent of such furniture has been calculated at the rate of 9 per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'durable' furniture and 16½ per cent. *per annum* of the capital cost of 'non-durable' furniture. Generally speaking, all wooden furniture is classified as 'durable', and druggets, door mats and curtains as "non-durable".

TREATY WITH U.S.A.

*1161. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation is being negotiated between India and the United States;

(b) whether both the countries have expressed interest in negotiating a double taxation treaty; and

(c) if so, when such a treaty is likely to materialise?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The treaty is still under discussion between the two Governments and it is not possible to say when it will be concluded.

INDIA STORES DEPARTMENT, LONDON

*1162. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many of the officers working in the India Stores Department, London are qualified to make professional inspection of stores?

(b) Is there any separate agency to do this work?

(c) What is the total business handled by the India Stores Department during the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragoina): (a) 73.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Statistics are maintained for financial years only. During 1952-53, the total value of purchases made by the Department was £19.2 million.

CHANDERNAGORE

*1163. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the shop-employees of Chandernagore for promulgation of the West Bengal Shops and Establishment Act there; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take with regard to this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes; on the 4th August, 1953.

(b) Government have decided to extend this Act to Chandernagore as soon as possible. Steps are being taken to provide the necessary administrative machinery to implement the Act.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES

*1164. **Shri B. N. Kuroel:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what are the main steps Government have taken so far under the Five Year Plan to improve the economic condition of the scheduled castes in the country?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): The State Governments do not distinguish between scheduled castes and other backward classes. Rs. 4 crores have been provided in the Plan by the Central Government for expenditure on the welfare of scheduled castes and other backward classes. Programmes under this provision are being formulated. State Governments have made, in addition, a provision for Rs. 10 crores for scheduled castes and backward classes as distinguished from scheduled tribes for whom a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made by them in their Plans. As regards the types of schemes which