

Shri Alagesan: In consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs we are considering this question. Though I may not be able to indicate the time-limit, I can assure the hon. Member that we will do it as quickly as possible.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Part (c) is not answered yet.

Mr. Speaker: He can put a separate question later.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The number of such employees, mentioned in part (c), cannot be under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: What is the reply to part (c)?

Shri Alagesan: Twenty-three employees took the case to the High Court.

INDIAN SHIPPING

*1236. **Mulla Abdullahai:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for shipping tonnage at the end of the Plan period is likely to be reached; and

(b) the extent of loans given so far by Government to the various Shipping Companies for this purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 3.]

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know the target up till now achieved in the three years' plan?

Shri Alagesan: To begin with, the tonnage was 3,90,000. The tonnage added up to date was 1,49,000. Tonnage scrapped within this period from the beginning of the Plan period is 60,000. The net addition up to now is 89,000, but we have been advancing loans to private shipping

companies who have been arranging purchases and we hope to reach the target of 6,00,000 tons before the Five Year Plan period is over.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The figures just quoted are difficult to follow. May I therefore know the percentage of the total achieved so far during these three years out of the five-year period.

Shri Alagesan: As I said, the companies are in the process of making purchases. They began with 3,90,000 tons.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty of the hon. Minister, as I see it, is that the matter is partly in the hands of private companies.

Shri Alagesan: More than 90 per cent. is in the hands of private companies.

Mr. Speaker: He is, therefore, unable to give the answer.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: In view of the fact that there has not been proper response to the loans advanced to private companies, is there any proposal to encourage an increase in the tonnage by adopting the practice prevailing in other countries where loans are being granted for ship-building at very low or nominal rates of interest, repayable within a very long period, subject to the condition that the construction conforms to the design put forward by naval experts?

Shri Alagesan: I have already informed the House that all this is being done by Government now. We are aiding companies to place orders on the Hindustan Shipyard and Government pays, as a subsidy, the difference between the U.K. parity price and the actual cost of the Hindustan Shipyard. In addition to this, we have given long-term loan to shipping companies to place orders abroad or to have ships constructed in foreign shipyards.