

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A statement showing earnings of Indian Shipping Companies is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 37.]

Information regarding earnings of Indian-owned ships and Indian chartered ships is not available separately.

(b) Increased earnings of foreign exchange can be achieved only when substantial additions to the Indian-owned tonnage become possible to enable increased participation of Indian shipping in the various overseas trades. Shipping is in the private sector and the initiative for acquisition of additional tonnage for the development of overseas trades primarily rests with the Indian shipping companies. Government have, however, taken and are taking active steps to assist in this process. Some of the steps taken in this direction are (i) supporting Indian shipping companies in their negotiations with foreign shipping interests to secure membership of "Shipping Conferences" controlling the overseas trades and to increase their shares in those trades. (ii) setting up a Shipping Corporation on a state-cum-private ownership basis, with capital largely financed by Government, for acquiring ships and operating them in selected overseas routes. (iii) ensuring by means of necessary provisions included in the Trade Treaties with other countries or otherwise that Indian shipping companies operating in the overseas trades get their fair share of cargoes. (iv) making available loans to Indian shipping companies for purchase of ships from abroad on reasonable terms and (v) assisting them in the acquisition of tonnage by furnishing information regarding availabilities and arranging liberal release of foreign exchange.

APPELLATE AUTHORITY

*1993. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the case of awarding punishments, the Appellate authority has been empowered to issue directions to the initial punishing authorities before awarding punishments?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The question is not clear. So far as I can understand it the answer is in the negative.

FORD FOUNDATION SCHEME

*1994. **Shri C. N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be

pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to publicise the activities of the Ford Foundation Scheme in rural areas?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): The State Governments will give suitable publicity. Measures to improve agricultural publicity on a country-wide basis are under the consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

चांदा - कोरबा रेलवे लाइन

*१९९५. सरदार ए० एस० सहगल :
क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विलासपुर जिले (मध्य प्रदेश) में स्थित चांदा से कोरबा तक लाइन् विद्यमान के लिये परिमाण कार्य प्रारम्भ हुआ था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या हुआ ;

(ग) क्या परिमाण कार्य पूरा हो चुका है ;

(घ) यदि हो चुका है, तो रेल लाइन बिछाने का काम सरकार कब आरम्भ करना चाहती है और इसके पूरे होने में कितना समय लगेगा ;

(ङ) परिमाण-कार्य पर अब तक किया गया व्यय ; तथा

(च) रेलवे लाइन बिछाने में कितना व्यय होगा ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Survey was carried out for a railway line between Champa and Korba.

(b) and (c). The Survey work has been completed.

(d) It has been decided by the Central Board of Transport that the Champa-Korba Project should be taken up during 1954-55 and 1955-56 subject to the condition that the construction of this line keeps pace with the development of coalfields at Korba.