

made were what I said previously. I cannot exactly say whether the bills were modified or not.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

FREIGHT PAID TO SHIPPING COMPANIES

*1277. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the total amount of freight paid on Indian imports and exports separately during the last financial year to:—

- (b) British shipping companies;
- (ii) American shipping companies;
- (iii) Other foreign shipping companies; and
- (iv) Indian shipping companies?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The total freight and passenger earnings of Indian shipping companies during the calendar year 1951 amounted to about Rs. 776 lakhs, and this constitutes approximately 3 per cent. of the total freight paid on the exports and imports of India.

It is regretted that the other information asked for is not readily available. Efforts are being made to collect the necessary data but this will take some time. Even then it may not be possible to give the precise information asked for.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether our Indian ships are carrying cargo from and to America?

Shri L. B. Shastri: So far as I know, none.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether we hope to reach the target laid down by the Shipping Committee in 1947 and if so, when?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We are trying our best to reach the target, but it would be difficult for me to say as to when we will be able to reach the target fixed in 1947.

WATER SCARCITY (PLANS)

*1278. **Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any plan for the solution of the problem of water scarcity in India other than irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, what has been done uptill now and what are the future plans?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). I take it that the hon. Member wishes to have information about minor irrigation projects as distinguished from the multi-purposes river valley projects. If so, a good deal of work has been done for increasing irrigation facilities through short and medium term works of minor irrigation, such as excavation of wells, tanks, channels, construction of tubewells, etc. An amount, in all, of Rs. 1553.07 lakhs as loan and Rs. 1840.98 lakhs, as grant has been sanctioned to the State Governments during the past three years for these works.

Shri Chinaria: Is it not a fact that these dried areas are the main cause of food shortage and is it not a fact that 275 million acres of land are under dry conditions.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is giving information. What is the information that he wants? What is his question?

Shri Chinaria: My question is what the Government is going to do with the remaining areas when the major and minor projects have not been able to irrigate more than 10 per cent. of the areas?

Shri Karmarkar: We are making further efforts.

Shri Chinaria: Do the Government have any scheme for artificial rains?

Shri Karmarkar: I suppose some experiments are on the way.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if there are any attempts made to remove the scarcity of drinking water?

Shri Karmarkar: This is a question on irrigation facilities.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It refers to 'scarcity'.

Shri Karmarkar: About drinking water, I should like to have notice.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if tube-wells have been sunk in North Gujerat?

Shri Karmarkar: There are no separate figures, but I find that tube-wells have been sunk in all parts of India.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government is aware of what happened to the Paniwala Maharajah who has done good work in this connection?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is more or less a matter for the Saurashtra Government and not here.