

- purchase of tonnage from abroad;
- (5) arranging for ships to be built at Visakhapatnam ship-building yard for sale to Indian Shipping Companies on instalment basis; and
- (6) providing Rs. 15 crores for Indian shipping in the Five-Year Plan for adding 175,000 GRT to the Indian tonnage by the end of the Planning period.

As a result of these measures, the owned tonnage of Indian shipping has now increased to 4.2 lakhs GRT as compared with only about 1.5 lakhs GRT early in 1947. This expansion has enabled Indian shipping to carry about 96 per cent. of the Indian coastal trade and to secure a more or less firm foothold in some of the important overseas trades of the country.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the present tonnage of Indian shipping in the total shipping plying India's coastal and overseas trade?

Shri L. B. Shastri: On the coastal side, Indian shipping is doing the whole coastal trade—about 96 per cent. In regard to overseas shipping, I am sorry, I cannot give the exact percentage.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that Indian shipping interests have repeatedly requested the Government to use their good offices to acquire new ships especially from the United States? What action has the Government taken on such requests?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is true that they made requests, and as I have said in the reply, we have tried to help them. So far as overseas shipping is concerned, we have recently, a month ago, sanctioned to give them a loan at a very cheap rate of interest, about 2½ per cent.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Would the Government tell us the actual freight on foodgrains paid to Indian ships and to ships of other countries in 1951?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I cannot give the exact figure. I think the hon. Member wants information about foreign ships which carried foodgrains. It will be somewhere about 50 crores.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that when the USA sold about 1113 war-time built ships, Indian shipping could get only a mere 15 ships?

Shri L. B. Shastri: In fact, a proposal was made for the purchase of ships in connection with the import of foodgrains. But it was thought that they could not be acquired then because the prices of ships registered a steep rise. The proposal was therefore dropped.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to break the choking stranglehold of foreign shipping interests over India's foreign trade?

Mr. Speaker: That is too wide a question.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there is any difference in the freight paid between Indian ships and foreign ships?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I require notice.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: How many ships are built every year in the Indian ship-building yard?

Mr. Speaker: I think that is an oft-repeated question and has been replied to more than once.

Shri Damodara Menon: Has any Shipping company actually taken a loan from the Government as a result of this offer? If so, what is the amount?

Shri L. B. Shastri: As I said, in fact, this decision was taken only last month. It is expected that they will come forward to take the loan now.

VENEREAL DISEASES

*320. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of patients suffering from venereal diseases in India at present;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to eradicate this disease and if so, what those steps are;

(c) to what percentage of persons suffering from venereal disease is free treatment made available in the various hospitals under Governments;

(d) what is the number of venereal patients treated in the various Government hospitals in the years 1950 and 1951; and

(e) what is the number of doctors who have specialised in dermatology in the service of the State and Central Governments?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No statistics are available

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II. annexure No. 22]

(c) Almost all persons suffering from venereal diseases who visit Government Hospitals as outpatients are given free treatment. In some State hospitals the well-to-do patients are, however, required to pay for the treatment.

(d) The number of patients treated in 1950 was 7,39,114 and in 1951 it was 10,49,500.

(e) The number of dermatologists in the service of State Governments is 62. No dermatologist is employed under the Central Government.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what are the regions in India where such venereal diseases are most prevalent?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): I require notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that recently a team of WHO Specialists conducted some blood tests in some regions of Delhi? What was the percentage of people who were found to have venereal diseases in such tests in Delhi?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that the Delhi State Government is still licensing prostitution, and whether there are over 1,000 such licences now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am asking these questions only in the best interests of the public health of the country.

Mr. Speaker: I quite understand; every Member is asking questions in the public interests.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I do not want to embarrass the hon. Minister at all, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let us not go into the administration of the Delhi State.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the figure given includes patients treated under the indigenous systems?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No.

Shri M. Khuda Baksh: May I know what is the incidence of venereal diseases in the different provinces?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Notice.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I say, Sir, in 1933 when a survey was done, the incidence was supposed to be in the neighbourhood of 37 per thousand of the population. There are no figures to show where the incidence is highest.

FISHING BANKS

*322. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any thorough survey of the fishing banks off the coast of India has been made so far by Government; and

(b) whether any hydrobiological data of such fishing banks have been collected so far?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No, but preliminary surveys of restricted nature were conducted in the past by Bombay, Madras and Bengal; and more systematic surveys are now being conducted by the Deep Sea Fishing Station of Government of India between Bombay and Saurashtra.

(b) Yes, some data have been collected based on studies at Madras, Mandapam, Tuticorin, Calicut, Karwar and to some extent at Bombay. These data relate mainly to coastal conditions.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in these surveys any sampling of deep sea fish and squid population have been taken?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in the surveys of fishing banks, the Navy has been of any help to the Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, in some parts, we have taken the assistance of the Navy.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in the survey of the Wadge Bank off the coast of Travancore-Cochin, the Navy has rendered any help in the collection of either hydrological data or biological data?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: To a certain extent they have. But, we have not been able to go far into the sea for lack of proper equipment, which may be possible a little later.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Madras Government are proposing to have a fishing bank, and