

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of proposals</i>	<i>Amount (Rs in lakhs)</i>
Haryana	9	218.10
Punjab	23	10276.00

(b) Details of the proposals cleared and funds sanctioned for the purpose during 1993-94 are:

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of proposals Cleared</i>	<i>Amount of Sanction (Rs in lakhs)</i>
Haryana	2	94.10
Punjab	9	8588.00

(c) and (d). Construction of none of the works sanctioned during 1993-94 is delayed. However, two externally aided projects in Haryana and one in Punjab sanctioned during earlier years are behind schedule mainly due to low out-put of the contractors and contractual problems.

[English]

Shipping Policy

*177. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorient the shipping policy in view of the new era of globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of the new policy formulated for shipping for implementation during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) the details of the proposed outlay in this regard; and

(d) the policy to be adopted for privatisation of shipping infrastructure network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Government has already reviewed the Shipping Policy with a view to promoting the interests of Indian Shipping Companies keeping in view the move towards globalisation and changes in economic policies. As part of the new Shipping Policy, a number of measures have been taken for the healthy growth of Indian Shipping Industry. These include:

1. Automatic approval is now given for:
 - (i) Acquisition of all categories of ships, except crude tankers and OSVs, by Private Shipowning companies;
 - (ii) Sale of ships for further trading/scrappping to a company within India or abroad;

- (iii) Acquisition of ship from an Indian shipyard; and
- (iv) Acquisition of replacement tonnage.

2. Freight charges on account of movement of fertiliser and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

3. Shipping companies have been given freedom to time Charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Shipping companies are allowed to acquire vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

5. Certain Sections of Merchant Shipping Act were considered by foreign lenders as impediments to the enforcement of the rights of lenders in case of loan defaults and consequent requirement of foreclosure of the mortgage. These sections have now been amended, to facilitate Indian Shipping Companies to raise external commercial borrowing for ship acquisition from abroad.

6. Shipping companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition.

(c) An outlay of Rs 3300 crores has been provided in the Public Sector for the development of shipping during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(d) Shipping Sector is already open to the Private Sector. At present the share of

Private Sector in the Indian tonnage is about 50%. In order to promote development of shipping in the private sector, a number of measures have been taken which are listed above.

Postal Services

*178. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI CHINMAYAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are general complaints about the inefficient postal services both in the rural and urban areas in the country;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for setting up a Committee to identify the reasons thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Department of Posts are held responsible in case of loss, mis-delivery of letters/parcels, etc. and damage caused to articles during transmission by post;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) While the Department of Posts makes every effort to maintain and improve the standard of service, there have been occasional complaints about deficiency in the Postal services both in rural and urban areas. It is primarily due to coming up of new residential colonies in the peripheral areas of big cities, manifold increase in