

giving financial assistance for setting up food processing industries in the country including in the State of Bihar. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various plan schemes during the 8th Plan which seeks to provide assistance for setting up/expansion/upgradation of food processing industries.

(b) and (c) . No proposal has been received from Bihar seeking assistance for setting up/upgrading of Makhaana industry

(d) and (e) . For the purpose of development of Makhaana industry, a Makhaana processing machine has been designed and developed by Post Harvest Technology Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. This machine is also meant for helping the small and cottage scale enterprises

Calicut bypass Phase II, III and IV

1317. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Phase II, III and IV of the Calicut bypass ; and

(b) the time by which it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The work relating to land acquisition is in different stages of progress.

(b) It is too early to indicate the date of completion of the bypass

Pilferage of Vegetables and Fruits

1318. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy's Fruits and Vegetables Unit have failed to unearth pilferage of vegetables and fruits from the private trucks/matadors hired by them;

(b) if so, whether the private truck/matador owners are replacing the fresh vegetables and fruits with the stale and rotten ones in the way;

(c) if so, the cases of replacement of fresh vegetables/fruits by the vehicle owners during the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Mother Dairy to check pilferage of fruits and vegetables from the private trucks/matadors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) . Does not arise.

Mini Steel Plants

1319. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the details of new mini steel

plants set up during the current financial year alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the Electric Arc Furnace route.

As per available information, one Electric Arc Furnace Unit, viz. M/s. Rajinder Steel Ltd. with a capacity of 1.75 lakh tonnes per annum has been commissioned at Siltara, Raipur, Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year.

Linkage of NTPC Through Satellite System

1320. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link NTPC power projects through satellite communication system;

(b) if so, the details of projects selected for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the benefits Government expects to derive by this linkage for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has already operationalised a dedicated Satellite Communication Network connecting its various thermal power stations with its Corporate Office at Delhi and Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The power projects connected through the Satellite Network are as follows:

S. No.	Project	State
1.	Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (STPC)	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Rihand STPS	Uttar Pradesh
3.	Faroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Project	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Auraiya Gas Power Project	Uttar Pradesh
5.	National Capital Power Project, Dadri	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Korba STPS	Madhya Pradesh
7.	Vindhyachal STPS	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Farakka STPS	West Bengal
9.	Ramagundam STPS	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Kahalgaoon STPS	Bihar
11.	Anta Gas Based Power Project (GBPP)	Rajasthan
12.	Kawas GBPP	Gujarat
13.	Gandhar GBPP	Gujarat
14.	Tacher STPS	Orissa

NTPC is further extending connectivity of the Network to its regional offices at Patna, Allahabad, Nagpur,

Secunderabad and Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project in Kerala.

(c) Communication is a critical input for day-to-day operation and project management of the large sized power projects. Increased connectivity has immensely enhanced the speed of information flow leading to effective Management Information system, thereby improving the organisational capabilities and competitive advantage of NTPC.

[Translation]

Ships in India

1321. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ships in the country as on date, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of ships registered and unregistered out of them, separately;

(c) the number of ships out of them in operation and out of order, State-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the repair of all those ships which are lying out of order and to make available more ships to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) . In accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the ships are required to be registered at Ports of registry and not State-wise. As on 1.2.1996, there are 480 ships aggregating to 7074969 Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT). The details are given in the attaches Statement. It is obligatory to register every Indian ship under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, unless it is a ship which does not exceed 15 tons and is employed solely in navigation on the coasts of India.

(c) and (d) . Out of the 480 ships, 9 ships aggregating to 68428 Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) are laid up. In so far as the repair of the ships are concerned, the shipping company concerned, has to decide whether to repair or not keeping in view of the business proposition.

STATEMENT

Details of category-wise vessels as on 1.2.1996

Sl. No.	Type of vessels	No. of vessels	GRT
1	2	3	4
1.	Dry Cargo	98	578019
2.	Tug	21	9844
3.	Dry Cargo (Bulk Carriers)	137	3106527
4.	Tankers (Product Carriers)	45	697974

1	2	3	4
5.	Cellular Container	7	85546
6.	Tankers (Crude Oil Carriers)	36	2004432
7.	Ore Oil Bulk Carriers	3	171101
8.	Passenger-cum-Cargo	13	67478
9.	Passenger Service	3	505
10.	Timber Carriers	4	15829
11.	Ethylene Gas Carriers	3	8725
12.	Acid Carriers	6	106109
13.	Ro Ro Vessel	1	956
14.	Chemical Carriers	1	14960
15.	Offshore Supply Vessels	73	88397
16.	Specialised Vessels for Offshore Services	27	83189
17.	LPG Carriers	2	35378
Total		480	7074969

[English]

Indo-US Agreement

1322. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether an agreement on Agricultural Research has been signed with U.S ;

(b) if so, the salient features of this agreement; and

(c) the details of benefits likely to be derived by signing this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agreement on cooperation in the field of Agricultural Sciences was signed on 27th January, 1996 between the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and the United States Department of Agriculture. The priority areas such as collection, evaluation and exchange of germplasm, agro-forestry, identification and control of animal plant diseases, dryland/sustainable agricultural production systems, bio-technology/microbiology and agri-business development have been agreed for cooperation.

(c) The benefits likely to be derived by signing this agreement include increase in the collaboration among agricultural scientists and institutions of agricultural research; developing higher learning between India and the United States of America . providing agricultural researchers and institutions with opportunities to exchange information, ideas, skills, and techniques; enhancing opportunities to