

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) 414 vessels of 9.65 Million Dead Weight Tonnage (DWT), both Coastal and Overseas, as on 30.11.1991.

(b) and (c). There is no specific proposal to enhance the shipping tonnage for inter-port movement of cargo. However, requests for acquisition of such vessels are considered by Government as and when these are received.

Acquisition of New Ships

4934. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEYA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of new ships by the shipping industry has suffered a set back in the past few years due to non-availability of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether non-availability of Indian ships has resulted in increased dependence on foreign flag ships for transportation of cargo there by enlarging the outflow of foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the amount of expenditure being incurred by the Government currently (in foreign exchange) on account of freight charges being paid to foreign shipping lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The reduced availability of free foreign exchange during 1990-91 and 1991-92 has been a significant factor in slowing down the acquisition of ships by Indian shipping industry.

(b) The precise impact is not yet apparent.

(c) The amount of expenditure incurred by Government in foreign exchange cannot be precisely assessed. However, the share of Indian lines in India's overseas trade during 1990-91 has been provisionally assessed at 35.6% and the balance cargo is moving by foreign lines for which the freight is being paid in foreign exchange.

Single Window Facility in Banks for Non-Resident Indians

4935. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the banks which have opened centres for Non-resident Indian to provide single window facilities for services like management of accounts, investment and portfolio management, taxation advice and counselling

(b) the location of such bank branches where such centres have been set up; and

(c) the response to NRIs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that so far only State Bank of India has opened centres at Bombay and New Delhi for this purpose.

(c) According to RBI, no information is available in this regard.

International Container Handling Terminal at Vypeen

4936. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken

any final decision to start the international container handling terminal at Vypeen, Cochin

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). There is no proposal for construction of any Container Terminal at Vypeen.

Construction of Road between Cochin Harbour and Cochin By-Pass

4937. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on link road connecting Cochin by-pass to Cochin Harbour has been completed;

(b) if not, the progress made in the construction of this link road so far; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Construction of NH-47A link road connecting Cochin Harbour to Cochin bypass, length 5.92 kms., is proposed to be done in two phases. Phase-I of the project, length 3.75 kms., which is ongoing, involved construction of a bridge across Venduruthy, one minor bridge, reclamation of land, construction of road embankment, etc. The Venduruthy bridge has been completed and the remaining works of Phase-I are expected to be completed by December 1992. Land acquisition for Phase-II, length 2.17 kms., is almost completed. Work of construction of

Phase-II, involving two bridges, one rail over bridge, approaches with viaducts etc., is included in Annual Programme 1991-92. Tentative target of completion of Phase-II is March 1996.

Subsidy to Cochin Shipyard

4938. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister OF SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the subsidy for the ships built in Cochin Shipyard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present order book position of the shipyard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to diversify the work in this shipyard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether a new cost-pricing formula for the ships to be built in the shipyard is likely to be adopted;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the Central assistance proposed to be given to this shipyard during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A study conducted by Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices on pricing of ocean going vessels built by Public Sector Shipyards recommended in 1987 an increase of subsidy from 30% to 40% and it is under consideration.

(c) The Shipyard has at present orders