

service, construction of roads and primary education for the children living in the locality ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of taxation is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent upon annual valuation in Railway colonies, whereas the civil population is paying taxes at the rate of 30 per cent on an average ; and

(c) whether the Railway Administration is considering to pay to the Municipality at an increased rate ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir. From 1.4.1983 the Eastern Railway is paying to Asansol Municipality a sum of Rs. 2,55,602/- per annum towards municipal tax and service charges. This works out to a rate of 19.5% (Holding 7.5% Conservancy 6% and Water 6%) on the annual valuation of railway properties accepted by the Review Committee of the Asansol Municipality. No road has been constructed by the Asansol Municipality within the Railway Colony. The provision of educational facilities is excluded from the payment of service charges per the directives of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) The Railways pay to the Municipality $7\frac{1}{2}$ % of the annual valuation of post 1937 Properties as service charges. Information about payment by civil population is not available.

(c) The question of the rate for payment is under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

**Construction of off-shore Platforms in
Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.,
Visakhapatnam**

6981. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of off-shore platforms which are proposed to be constructed and are under construction in Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam and the capital cost of the project approved by the Union Government ;

(b) the number of orders which were expected to be received during a four-year period from the date of making the proposal to the Union Government and the number of orders so far received ;

(c) the employment potentialities, additional employment potentialities under this new project ; and

(d) the decision taken by ONGC with regard to placing the orders with Hindustan Shipyard Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The Project for creating infrastructural facilities at an exclusive Yard at a site adjacent to the Shipyard at Lova Garden for taking up construction of offshore well-head platforms was approved by Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.25 crores which includes Rs. 74 lakhs as capitalised interest. At present, the Shipyard has orders for construction of two offshore platforms for Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) The Offshore Platforms Yard at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam was conceived for an initial capacity of two platforms and to be increased to four platforms per year, based on the projected needs of ONGC for these platforms during the 7th Plan period.

(c) The new Yard at Visakhapatnam today provides employment to nearly 1,000 personnel and will ultimately provide employment to about 1,500 personnel.

(d) The ONGC has not yet taken any decision with regard to the placing of further orders on Hindustan Shipyard Limited.

New Airport in Kanyakumari Districts

6982. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to set up an Airport in Kanyakumari District ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) There is no proposal to set up an airport in Kanyakumari since the airport at Trivandrum is located at a distance of 60 kms. from, and connected by road and rail with, Kanyakumari. Further, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot have not indicated any requirement for an airport in Kanyakumari.