

(c) The MOU in respect of National Highways Projects has already been signed. The MOU in respect of Port projects is yet to be signed.

#### Container Facility at Paradip Port

2481. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of containers at Paradip Port in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the shortage of containers has adversely affected the export at the port particularly prawn and other fishes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure the supply of adequate number of containers at the port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The Paradip Port does not handle any container and hence the question of "Scarcity of containers" at this Port does not arise.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Financial Agreements with European Economic Community

2483. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial agreements for development of minor irrigation projects in Orissa and saline land reclamation in Maharashtra have been signed with European Economic Community in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds involved in these Projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In July 1995, under the EC Development Cooperation, two projects. "Minor Irrigation Projects" in Orissa and "Saline Land Reclamation Project" in Maharashtra were signed.

The total project cost of the Orissa Minor Irrigation Project is 12.7 million ECU out of which 10.7 million ECU is EC assistance. The project aims at rehabilitating minor irrigation schemes and establishing water distributions, operation and maintenance managed by local farmers. The project also emphasizes on farm development so as to improve small farm productivity and increase job opportunities. It is targeted to benefit 23,000 farming families.

The total cost of the Saline Land Reclamation Project in Maharashtra is 18.1 million ECU, of which EU assistance is 12.7 million ECU. Under the project, saline land in

coastal areas will be reclaimed for agricultural production and in order to preserve the mangrove eco system. It will benefit the poor farming and fishing communities and strengthen local participation in planning, operation and maintenance. The project is targeted to assist 66,000 households through rehabilitation and productivity programmes.

(c) The total funds involved in these projects are ECU 30.8 million.

[Translation]

#### Ferry Service at Cochin Harbour Port

2484. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any warnings about the dangers involved in over loaded ferry service at cochin Harbour/Port have been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Mission Premises

2485. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of countries where Indian Missions have been set up;

(b) the number of Mission functioning in rented premises;

(c) the average expenditure incurred on rent for these premises every year; and

(d) the names of the countries where India is likely to build its own embassy premises in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) The Government of India has set up resident Missions in 109 countries.

(b) 55 missions are functioning in rented premises.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Premises to house the Indian Mission or to supplement existing accommodation are to be built shortly in the following countries;