

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---|---------|
| 6. Kerala | - | - | - | 426.17 |
| 7. Karnataka | - | - | - | 662.62 |
| 8. Madhya Pradesh | 17.56 | - | - | 560.00 |
| 9. Mizoram | 28.29 | - | - | 27.72 |
| 10. Meghalaya | - | 170.40 | - | - |
| 11. Maharashtra | - | 707.68 | - | - |
| 12. Nagaland | - | 156.81 | - | 83.86 |
| 13. Orissa | 198.99 | - | - | - |
| 14. Punjab | 165.99 | 137.02 | - | 92.44 |
| 15. Rajasthan | 412.17 | - | - | - |
| 16. Sikkim | 0.53 | - | - | - |
| 17. Tamil Nadu | 0.71 | - | - | - |
| 18. Tripura | - | - | - | 407.10 |
| 19. Uttar Pradesh | 188.48 | - | - | - |
| Total | 2064.55 | 2139.85 | - | 2316.63 |

[Translation]

Cargo and Passenger Ships

*177. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cargo and passenger ships in the country;

(b) whether these are enough to meet the requirements of out-going and in-coming passenger and cargo services of the country;

(c) whether the Government are manufacturing or purchasing more ships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) There are 333 cargo ships, 3 passenger ships and 13 passenger-cum-cargo ships registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as on 31.3.1996.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Government is acquiring ships for the Andaman and Nicobar Administration as detailed below.

| S No. | Types of vessels | No of vessels | Name of the shipyard |
|-------|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | 1200 Passenger cum 1500 Tonne Cargo Vessel. | 1 | Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|--|----|---|
| 2. | Vehicle Ferries | 4 | Damodar Engineers, Port Blair, Andaman Nicobar Islands. |
| 3. | 400 Passenger cum 100 Tonne Cargo Vessel | 1 | Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, West Bengal. |
| 4. | 50-60 Passenger Vessel | 2 | Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited, Gujarat. |
| 5. | 35-45 Passenger Vessel | 1 | Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) Limited, Gujarat. |
| 6. | Touring Vessel | 1 | Bristol Boat Builders Cochin, Kerala. |
| 7. | 100 Passenger-cum-Vehicle Ferry | 2 | Shalimar works Limited, Calcutta (West Bengal). |
| Total | | 12 | |

[English]

Dawki Amabil Transborder Trade Route

*178. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dawki Amabil transborder trade route between Bangladesh and India has been closed since January, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have received requests from traders for reopening the trade route; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for reopening the trade route?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Trade with Bangladesh through Dawki Tamabil route came to a halt in January, 1996 due to firing by Bangladesh Rifles on 16.1.1996 at the site of construction of a new Indian Customs building. The Bangladesh authorities had earlier protested against the construction on the grounds that it amounted to erection of defensive works within 150 metres of the boundary line.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A meeting/joint inspection of site by Government officials from both sides was held on 24.6.96 at Dawki Tamabil border to resolve this issue. It is proposed to recommence work at the Dawki station as soon as the formal response of the Bangladesh Government is received.