

berthed at the madras Port in January, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to keep a watch on the movements of these ships near Indian coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYLER): (a) to (c). U.S.S. Robert E. Ready visited the port of madras from 6th to 8th January, 1992 on a goodwill visit. Whether or not the vessel forms part of the Seventh fleet not known. Surface maintained as a standard function of Indian Navy and the Coast Guard to enable the monitoring of all sea borne traffic within the maritime Zones.

Passenger ship service between Mangalore - Bombay

4948. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a passenger ship service between Mangalore and Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

C & AG Report against Coffee Board.

4949. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government on the C & AG report against Coffee Board regarding coffee curing works; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that such irregularities do not happen in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Necessary action has been initiated in consultation with the Coffee Board on the C & AG report on the review of the functioning of Coffee Board, which *inter-alia* includes curing of coffee also. As a interim measure, the following action has been taken by the Coffee Board to improve control over Curing Works;

(i) A Scheme for 100% stock verification in the Curing Works has been taken up during 1991-92 to verify shortage of coffee and/or misappropriation of coffee.

(ii) the entire system of opening of LCs for payment to growers has been streamlined and the returns from the Curing Works are being watched and analysed to ensure that there is no mis-use of funds;

(iii) Computerisation of the data on stocks, issuing of LCs etc., as well as the returns of the curing Works is planned for quicker and better inventory management;

(iv) Responsibility has been placed on attached officials for periodic verification of stocks as well as proper utilisation of funds by the Curing Works; and

(v) The Coffee Board has appointed a Sub-committee to inquire into the whole question of utilisation of funds by Curing Works in the past and also to look into instances of mis-use of funds not only to initiate action against the Curing Works but also to evolve and implement a fool-proof

system of opening of LCs, monitoring the utilisation of funds, etc.

Recruitment in National Saving Organisation

4950. SHRI RAM VILLAS PASWAN: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of the national Savings Organisation have been gradually declining;

(b) whether fresh recruitment in the Organisation is being continued despite decline in its activities; and

(c) if so, the justification for continuing recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIS SINGH): (a) The activities of the National Saving Organisation (NSO) for popularising small savings schemes continued during 1991-92 as in the previous years.

(b) and (c). Government has decided to restructure the NSO in order to make it more effective. In view of this, while direct recruitment has been suspended, posts in the NSO falling under the promotion quota are being filled up at various levels excepting the district Saving Officers.

Satellite port at Ennore

4951. SHRI D. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the development of satellite port at Ennore in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether an expert committee has recommended for a bigger port than that was

contemplated earlier;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HJAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A Pre-PIB (public Investment Board) meeting for the proposal has been held in the Ministry on 16.3.92.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) It will take about 5 years for completion of the project from the date of Sanction

[*Translation*]

Conversion of National Highway No. 2 to Expressway

4952. SHRI CHHEDIPASWAN: Will the MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the National Highway No. 2 passing through Varanasi, Dehari, Onsona, Barhi under 'National Express System' ;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to accord priority to Varanasi-Dehari-Onsona-Barhi segment in view of the heavy traffic on this highway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). National Highway No. 2 including Varanasi-Dehari-Onsona-barhi Section is one of the