

JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). The proposal for the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines is under examination. The question of drawing action plan will depend upon Government decision in this behalf.

Water-shed programme

395. SHRI NARSING SURYA WANSHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) in view of the poor ground water utilisation in the State of Karnataka, whether Union Government or State Government have any plan for 'water shed programme' for preservation of water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "National Water Shed Development Programme" covering an area of 36,000 hectares annually during VIIth plan period in 13 districts of the State has been approved. A World Bank assisted project on "Water Shed Development in Rainfed Areas" is also under implementation in parts of Bangalore and Mysore districts in Karnataka.

The State Government has also proposed taking up of schemes for prospecting and development of ground water on Water Shed basis during 1986-87.

Barefoot doctors programme

396. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme of barefoot doctors for bringing low cost medical care to villages has been brought on a full fledged scale;

(b) whether barefoot doctors have achieved success in other countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the bare-foot doctors programme had been assured support by the foreign international development agencies and if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) There is no scheme of Bare-foot doctors in the country.

(b) Bare-foot doctors are working in China and according to the report available it has been successful in the pronative and preventive aspects of health care. Important contribution have been made in the field of obstetrics and family planning.

(c) Question does not arise.

Proposal to form a consortium of shipping companies

397. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to form a consortium of three shipping companies viz Scindia Steam and Navigation Company, India Shipping Company and the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether these three shipping companies have enough capacity for break-bulk cargo and containerisation; and

(c) whether Government have provided enough funds for the purchase of or to revamp their fleet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No Sir.

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

Transportation of goods through coastal shipping vis-a-vis rail and road

398. SHRI BIRINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :