

projects/programmes are under implementation.

(c) There is no visa requirement for Indians visiting Maldives.

Drilling Machines for Drinking Water

2861. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether powerful drilling machines and various equipments for drinking water are being received from foreign agencies to combat drought;

(b) if so, whether any machines has been allotted to Madhya Pradesh, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Under UNICEF Assistance Programme twelve (12) All terrain rigs are likely to be received for deployment in drought affected States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Two All terrain rigs have already been deployed in Madhya Pradesh.

Aluminium Quota for NTPC Projects

2862. SHRI AJITSINH DABHI:
SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR:
SHRI PUNAMCHAND
MITHABHAI VENKAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation Projects producing aluminium conductors do not get full requirement of aluminium; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) National Thermal

Power Corporation (NTPC) do not produce aluminum conductors. However, they procure conductors to lay transmission lines from conductor manufacturing units who have been allocated metal as per approved guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

Policy in allowing Acquisition of Vessels

2863. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in allowing acquisition of Vessels;

(b) whether Government are allowing Shipping companies to acquire fishing Vessels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the norms fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Any person who fulfils the requirement of Section 21 of Merchant Shipping Act 1958 can apply to Government for acquisition of vessels. Permission to acquire vessels is given taking into consideration the need for the vessels and, in the case of second hand vessels, also the age of the vessel, the reasonableness of the price etc.

(b) and (c). Any Indian company including a shipping company can acquire deep sea fishing vessel. Shipping companies can apply on prescribed form to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for issue of authorisation to import vessel.

The Government allow acquisition of deep sea fishing vessels through general import, indigenous construction and under 100% export oriented scheme. Acquisition of deep sea fishing vessel is also allowed to joint venture company for operation in Indian waters. In case of general import scheme, entrepreneurs have to acquire one vessel indigenously against the import of two vessels (pari passu condition). In case