

and Kampuchea for further industrial/technical/financial assistance. It is Government's keen desire to help the Indo-China countries in their economic reconstruction. It will be Government's endeavour to give all possible assistance subject to the constraints of our resources including those of finance.

Dredgers and Vessels of Dredging Corporation of India

2461. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have enquired into the reports of low utilisation of dredgers and vessels belonging to Dredging Corporation of India ; and

(b) what steps are being taken to tone up the efficiency of the administration of this Dredging Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No reports of low utilisation of Dredgers belonging to Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. have been received.

The maximum availability of a Dredger is about 250 days per year considering the time taken for annual repairs and maintenance etc. During the year 1979-80 the average time for which 8 Dredgers of the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. have been utilised stands at 212 days. This average was despite the fact that one of the Dredgers just worked only for 89 days for want of demand. The average performance of the Fleet is considered satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Amount sanctioned for development of Shipping and Ports

2462. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned Rs. 265 crores in the last nine months for development of shipping and ports in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Government have sanctioned Rs. 4227.23 lakhs as Rupee loan and Rs. 3782.29 lakhs as loans under SAFAUNS (Ship Acquisition From Abroad under New Scheme) between February, 1980 to October, 1980 for acquisition of ships. Government have also sanctioned projects

worth Rs. 77.33 crores for various schemes for the major ports since January, 1980.

(b) Details are as per Statement 'A' 'B' and 'C' laid on the table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-1514/80]

Wheel unit at Yelahanka

2463. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether wheel and axle unit is being set up at Yelahanka

(b) if so, whether Government have entered into collaboration with any country to deploy sophisticated technology; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes.

(b) A collaboration agreement has been entered into with M/s. Amsted Industries Inc. USA on 10th April, 1974 for manufacture of Wheels.

(c) Under the agreement M/s. Amsted will provide complete technical know-how for setting up of the wheel unit of the Plant. The wheels shall be manufactured by the bottom pressure casting process. This collaboration shall expire 7½ years after the first lot of 1000 wheels have been produced satisfactorily in the Wheel & Axle Plant. The Government are required to pay a sum of US \$ 50,000 as disclosure fees and royalty at the rate of 5% of the net sale price of the product during the currency of the collaboration agreement excluding the first lot of 1000 wheels.

Suburban Railway Passes

2464. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a legislation transferring the burden of increase in rates of Suburban railway passes to the employees ; and

(b) if so, when is such a legislation likely to be introduced ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No.