

4-Wheeler Wagons

3520. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed an escalation of 43.6 per cent in the price of 4-Wheeler wagons excluding the free supply items by the Railways like wheelsets and axle;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wagon industry had demanded an increase of 35 per cent in price earlier which was not granted;

(c) how much extra public money is being spent for acquiring the wagons; and

(d) the total number of 4-wheeler wagons for which order has been placed with the private and public sectors, separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Ministry of Railways placed wagons orders in October, 1980, which took into account the escalations in the intervening period and other factors since the placement of previous orders; the extent of price increase allowed in October 1980 orders with base date 1-4-1980 with respect to earlier orders with base date 1-3-1978 varies from 43 per cent to 54 per cent depending upon the type of wagon.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Orders for 10,063 wagons in terms of 4-wheelers have been placed on the Public Sector Units and for 17,489 wagons in terms of 4-wheelers on Private Sector Units.

Chinese Run Espionage Centre in Poonch

3521. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Chinese-run espionage cen-

tre is situated on the outskirts of Poonch, in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and it is operating closely with Pakistan intelligence outfits;

(b) whether this centre is suspected of having played considerable role in the unrest in Kashmir;

(c) whether the Chinese troops are also present with a missile unit in the Gilgit area of occupied Kashmir and rebels from Afghanistan are being trained in the area; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(d) Government have no confirmation about these reports and have also noted denials issued by the Governments of Pakistan and China. Government remain vigilant and if any confirmation of these reports is received, the fact that we view with grave concern any military activity in a territory which is an integral part of India will be made known appropriately.

Number of Indian Doctors Abroad

3522. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian doctors are abroad at present; and

(b) the steps which Government contemplate to take so that more doctors may be sent to Middle East countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No precise total figures are available. However, 3912 doctors have been selected from 1973 to November 1980 for assignments abroad on bilateral contract basis for deputation to developing countries. No record is available about the number of doc-

tors who are abroad in developed countries or those who have secured appointments directly in developing countries.

(b) The Government is undertaking all steps to facilitate the deputation of doctors to the Middle East on mutually beneficial and accepted terms.

Recommendation of Inter-Ministerial Working Groups on Ports

3523. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations regarding requirements in relating to anticipated growth of economy projected by inter-Ministerial Working Group for (i) Shipping and Industry (ii) Ports and (iii) Road Transport; and

(b) what action Government propose to take on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). An inter-Ministerial Working Group for Ports for the Five-Year Plan 1980-85 was set up and the Group made the following proposals for allocation of funds for the port sector for the Plan period:—

	Rupees in Crores
(i) Major Ports Sector	633.00
(ii) Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works	24.00
(iii) Central Dredging Organisation	1.00
(iv) Dredging Corpn. of India	30.00
(v) Research and Development	3.00
Total:	691.00

Against this, the Planning Commission have agreed to an allocation of Rs. 575.00 crores. The Sector-wise allocations are under finalisation.

2. No inter-Ministerial Working Group was set up for Shipping

and Road Transport Sectors for the Five Year Plan 1980-85. However on the basis of projections received from the Shipping Development Fund Committee and the requirements projected by public sector under takings, the Ministry had proposed an allocation of Rs. 913 crores as loans to S.D.F.C. and Rs. 215 crores as subsidy to S.D.F.C. during the Five Year Plan 1980-85. Against this, the Planning Commission have approved only Rs. 720 crores for the shipping sector.

In respect of the Road Transport sector, an amount of Rs. 149.00 crores was proposed for allocation during the Five Year Plan 1980-85. Against this, the Planning Commission have approved an allocation of Rs. 70 crores.

Conference of the Chairman of Port Trusts

3524. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day conference was held in New Delhi of the Chairmen of the Port Trusts;

(b) if so, the main subject discussed;

(c) whether the question of shortage of pilot boats that guide ships was discussed in the conference;

(d) whether the question of strike by dock workers was also discussed in the conference; and

(e) if so, the decisions arrived at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes.

(b) The main subjects discussed in the conference were: review of Plan Projects for 1980-85; Container handling capacity at Ports; measures to reduce pre-berthing detention and