

Purchase of ships by Shipping Corporation of India

190. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the purchase or import of ships by the Shipping Corporation of India during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). Shipping Corporation of India has, in its Sixth Five Year Plan, envisaged acquisition of 47 ships aggregating 1.23m GRT from India and abroad involving a total investment of Rs. 800 crores. The vessels proposed to be acquired include medium range tankers, cargo liners, bulk carriers, crude carriers, product tankers, lube oil tankers and edible oil tankers.

Congestion in Madras, Bombay and Visakhapatnam ports

191. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is congestion of incoming ships in the ports of Madras, Bombay and Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has effected the loading of outgoing ships; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDAR PATIL): (a) to (c). There is no congestion in the ports of Madras, Bombay and Visakhapatnam. However due to strike by workers in certain sections in Madras Port from 30th June, 1982 some temporary congestion

has developed, which is expected to be relieved soon.

(d) Does not arise.

Talks held on New Moore Islands

192. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of ownership of the New Moore Island was considered at the recent Indo-Bangladesh talks held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof, indicating the area of agreement reached in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Secretary level talks were held between India and Bangladesh at New Delhi from January 13 to 15, 1982 on some bilateral issues, including New Moore Island.

(b) It was for the first time that detailed and substantive discussions were held on New Moore Island between the two Governments. In conformity with their mandate the two sides exchanged additional information and agreed to discuss this matter again at an early date after an in depth examination of the additional information made available, on the basis of relevant facts and principles.

Leasing out of Tinbigha to Bangladesh

193. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of leasing out of the Tinbigha area in perpetuity to Bangladesh was considered at the recent Indo-Bangladesh Foreign Secretaries' meet held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what were the terms of the agreement, if any, concluded as a result thereof?