

Tube-wells in Orissa

344 Shri B C Mullick: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether any help has been promised to Orissa for digging tube-wells during the current financial year, and

(b) if so, what is the amount?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes

(b) Rs 3 65 lakhs

Air Services in NEFA.

345. { Shri Ramam:
Shri T B. Vittal Rao.

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to start freighter and passenger air services in North East Frontier Agency areas, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin): (a) and (b) Passighat and Along in the North East Frontier Agency are already connected by air. The Indian Airlines Corporation's service Calcutta/Gauhati/Monhanbari/Passighat/Along operates to Passighat four times a week and to Along once weekly. As for freighter services the Corporation is carrying out supply flights on behalf of the North East Frontier Agency Administration to points of their choice.

The Corporation have no immediate plans for expansion of the passenger or freighter services in that Area.

Hindustan Shipyard

346 Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that stock of materials of the value of Rs 17,50,000 has remained stagnant for a considerable period in the Hindustan Shipyard, and

(b) if so, what action is being taken to dispose of the surplus stock?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b) Yes. Surplus stores of the approximate value of Rs 165 lakhs were taken over from Scindias when the Yard was taken over by the Hindustan Shipyard in March, 1952. Attempts were made to dispose of the materials to the other public sector organisations and also by inviting tenders by advertisement in newspapers, but without much success. The management have since decided to dispose of the materials in lots by means of auction. So far, two auctions have been held and a total sum of Rs 1 lakh has been realised. The practice of holding such auctions periodically to dispose of the remaining items of stores as quickly as possible is being continued.

Licensed Porters Union at Howrah

347 Shri H C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) what is the yardstick laid down for fixing up the number of licensed porters to be kept at a station,

(b) what facilities are provided for the licensed porters at Stations for taking rest or attending to natural calls etc;

(c) whether they are authorised to use the amenities provided for 3rd Class passengers, and

(d) whether it is a fact that at Bombay Central Station of the Western Railway the licensed porters use the latrines provided for third class passengers causing a great inconvenience to the passengers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No yardstick, as such, has been laid down for determining the number of porters to be licensed at each station. But