

basic principles. Arrangements in this matter, which are within the purview of the State Government, are dependent also on the extent to which collection of land revenue and other related functions are entrusted to the Panchayati Raj institutions. With the progressive transfer of these functions to these institutions, a combination of revenue and development functions, to a certain extent, will be inevitable. However, the State Government are examining the work-load of the B.D.Os particularly in the heavier blocks and are providing assistance to the B.D.O.s, wherever necessary.

Churchgate-Grant Road Railway Track

3082. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken decision to set up a third track on Western Railway between Church gate and Grant Road for local trains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that that decision was taken in 1959;

(c) if so, the reason for delay in construction of a third track; and

(d) when the construction will start?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) A decision has been taken to acquire land now for providing a third line when necessary.

(b) No. The decision was taken in 1961.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Merchant Vessels

3083. Shri Parulekar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the total number of merchant vessels owned by the Indian Shipping Companies, at present?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The Indian shipping companies, in the public as well as the private sectors, own at present 176 ships (including tankers) of about 912,000 gross registered tons.

Flood Control in Tripura

3084. Shri Bangshi Thakur: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount that has been spent so far since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan for the flood control schemes in Tripura; and

(b) the total amount of recurring expenditure viz., all kinds of maintenance cost that is being incurred for the said purpose in Tripura during the same period mentioned above?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Rs. 22,28,875.

(b) Rs. 11,75,692.

Kozhikode Railway Station

3085. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when was the present building of the Kozhikode Railway Station built;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are a number of cracks in the walls of the building and tiles are falling down from the ceiling on passengers; and

(c) in view of the seriously deteriorating condition of the building whether Government have any proposal to pull the present structure down and build a new building?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) In the year 1888.

(b) No cracks have developed in the walls of the building. As regards falling of tiles, this might have occurred only during heavy rains and gale.

(c) No Sir, but certain improvements such as expansion of III class waiting hall, extension of platform covering etc. have been proposed.