

Purchase of Ships

3597. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Shipping concern has been permitted by the Government of India to purchase 16 ships during the next two years;

(b) if so,

(i) the name of the Company which has been permitted;

(ii) the total tonnage of the ships;

(iii) the category of ships;

(iv) the approximate total cost involved in the purchase of these ships;

(v) the extent of financial assistance, if any, and the terms on which the Government of India will give the loan to the Company concerned for purchase of the ships;

(c) whether any other Shipping Company has also been permitted to purchase ships; and

(d) if so, full details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The Jayanti Shipping Company Private Ltd., New Delhi, which was incorporated early this year, has submitted a proposal to Government for the acquisition of about 13 dry cargo ships aggregating to about 185,000 GRT, at a cost of about Rs 22.5 crores, for operation in the overseas trades of India. The Company has also applied to the Shipping Development Fund Committee for a loan of approximately Rs 20 crores, in this regard. The matter is under consideration. In addition, the Jayanti Shipping Company has already acquired an overseas tanker of about 20,000 GRT, out of its own resources.

(c) and (d). The Third Five Year Plan contemplates a gross addition of about 375,000 GRT on a monetary outlay of Rs. 55 crores. Government are awaiting concrete proposals from the

other shipping companies for the expansion of their fleet to fulfil the above target. Nevertheless, since April, 1961 four Indian shipping companies other than Jayanti shipping company have been permitted to acquire four ships totalling about 13,500 G.R.T. at an approximate cost of Rs. 59 lakhs on deferred payment terms.

Post Offices Damaged in Poona Floods

3599 { **Shri G. K. Jedhe:**
Shri Pangarkar:

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

(a) the number of Post Offices damaged in recent floods in Poona and surrounding villages; and

(b) the number of official and non-official persons found dead in those Post Offices?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) None, Sir. The working of 5 Post Offices was affected as the roads leading to them had to be cleared of debris and mud.

(b) No official was found dead in any post office. The dead body of an outsider was recovered from the premises of the Deccan Gymkhana Post Office. The deceased was a cobbler by profession and was the husband of a part time sweeper of the post office.

Sugar Factories

3600. { **Shri G. K. Jedhe:**
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar factories set up so far in India, State-wise;

(b) how many of them are on co-operative basis, State-wise; and

(c) how many have been set up or are proposed to be set up during the year 1961-62?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). 36 new factories have been set up so far since 1955-56. State-wise details of these and of the new factories likely to be set up during 1961-62 are given in the attached statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 67].

Pensions of Retired Persons on Railways

3601. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All-India Retired Railway Men's Federation submitted a memorandum on the 1st June, 1961 regarding pensionary benefits to the Retired Railway employees;

(b) if so, what is Government's reply to the formula for payment of pensions;

(c) whether it is a fact that some retired men are prepared to refund their retired benefits provided pension with arrears is paid with retrospective effect; and

(d) what is the final decision of Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes—requesting that the pensionary benefits may be given not only to those who were in service on 1st April, 1957 but also to those who had retired between 1947 and 1957.

(b) The question of acceptance or otherwise of any formula does not arise when, according to the established principles, pensionary or other benefits cannot be given effect from a date much earlier than the date of the Government decision. In this case, the decision arose out of the Railway Minister's observations in the Lok Sabha on 18th December, 1956—not out of the 1947 Pay Commission's recommendations—and was given effect to from the commencement of the following financial year (i.e. from 1st April,

1957), for existing staff and for new entrants from 16th November, 1957—the latter being the date of Government's decision. On the non-railway side of the Government of India also, pensionary benefits—in lieu of the earlier contributory scheme of Provident Fund—were extended only to staff in service on 1st April, 1955 in the case of non-industrial staff of certain departments and 18th November, 1960 in the case of industrial staff.

(c) Yes, according to the statement made by the President of the Federation in his covering letter to the Memorandum, but the question is whether as a general rule they are prepared to do so.

(d) Refer to reply to part (b) of this question.

R.M.S. Section in Madurai

3602. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Headquarters of R.M.S. section in Madurai in Madras circle known as T9 and T17 is to be shifted to Trichinopoly;

(b) if so, reasons for the same; and

(c) the effects of this on Madurai?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) There is no such proposal. It may be added that the T-17 (now EK 17) Section has its headquarters at Trivandrum.

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

Accident to a Goods Train

3603. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train met an accident 3 miles away from Palanpur on Palanpur-Kandla