

Meeting Regarding Reduction in the Container Handling Charges in Ports

4477. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has convened a meeting of the Port Trust Chairmen and representatives of the Federation of Port and Dock workers to discuss the proposal to reduce the container handling charges in various ports ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held and the final decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). A meeting was held on 6.8.1984 with the Chairman of the Major Port Trusts, representatives of the major Federations of port and dock workers and the Federation of Associations of Stevedores in which measures for improving productivity and for rationalisation of port and cargo handling charges were considered. The meeting recognised, inter alia, the importance of rationalising cargo handling charges at the Indian Ports, particularly those of containers, so as to achieve and maintain competitiveness with the ports in the neighbouring countries. It was recommended that this issue may be pursued from various angles like improvement in productivity and output, fiscal measures like duty drawbacks, financial reforms etc.

Import of Cement by Private Agencies

4478. SHRI A.K. BALAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given permission to any private company or individuals to import cement directly in 1984-85 ; and

(b) if so, who are the permitted importers for Kerala and Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b).

While the general policy for import of cement during the year 1984-85 is yet to be finalised, non-resident Indians and 100% export-oriented units from all over the country including Kerala and Tamil Nadu are allowed import of cement for specific projects under the relevant provisions of the Import and Export Policy 1984-85.

Statistical data in regard to the details of the parties who are allowed such facilities is not centrally maintained.

Keeping Poly-Clinics and Dispensaries Run by NDMC Open for Whole Day

4479. SHRI NIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has opened hospitals, poly-clinics and dispensaries for the benefit of the people ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to keep them open for the whole day i.e. from 8 a.m. in the morning to 8 p.m. in the evening ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) No, as according to NDMC the demand does not justify it at present.

Conversion of A.C. Chair Car Seats into 3 Tier Berths in New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express

4480. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers travelling by UP and DN Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah in AC Chair Car seats experience great difficulty and discomfort due to sitting posture for 18 long hours ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have propose to convert Chair Car seats into 3 Tier berths in the Rajdhani Express trains to