

to trade between India and United States of America had increased freight rates in January/February, 1971. They also gave notices of their intention for general increases in freight from August/September, 1972. Strong protests were lodged with the Conferences against the proposed freight hikes. The India-US Pacific Conference have since deferred the proposed increase to January, 1973 when the position will be reviewed by them. India-U. S. Atlantic Conferences have, however, not yet deferred their decision. The matter is being pursued further with them.

#### **Training Ship 'T. S. Rajendra'**

1077. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rupees three-crore training ship 'T. S. Rajendra' cannot go out to sea on its own power; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the choice of such training ship?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). It is correct that the training ship 'Rajendra' cannot go out to sea on its own power. The main reason for the choice of such a ship was that it had been conceived for training only deck cadets. It was, therefore, thought that there would be no point in fitting it with engines at an enormous cost, and also adding to the recurring expenditure on fuel, oil, staff etc. T. S. 'Rajendra' is however fitted with all necessary modern equipment, and elementary engine room training to deck cadets is provided in the auxiliary machinery and workshop provided on board the ship. The training ship 'Dufferin' which was the predecessor of the training ship 'Rajendra', also could not go out on sea on its own power, but rendered valuable services as a training ship.

#### **Steps for restoring Fertility to Saline Land**

1078. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4617 on the 1st May, 1972 regarding the area under saline and alkali land development of a new process for their reclamation and state the steps taken by the Government in different States, particularly

in Uttar Pradesh for restoring fertility to saline waste lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): It has been decided to take up two pilot projects to reclaim saline and alkaline land in the irrigated areas of Western Jamuna and Ramganga Canals of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh States respectively, with a view to try the new technology on the cultivators' field and to evaluate economic feasibility before undertaking large scale reclamation. This programme will be financed 100 per cent by the Government of India. The concerned State Governments have been requested to prepare the detailed projects.

#### **Addition of Roads to the Road system of the Country during 1971-72**

1079. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 22,000 km. of roads were added to the road system of the country during 1971-72;

(b) if so, State-wise break-up; and

(c) the share of the States to the consolidated cost of the construction of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

#### **Invention of Grain Treating Machine at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana**

1080. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Scientists at the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana have invented India's first grain treating machine; if so, whether it is easy to build;

(b) if so, whether the task of cleaning and disinfecting stores and bags will make the laborious and time-consuming and periodical inspection unnecessary; and