

couple of fires in the engine room. It has been ascertained from the shipping Corporation of India that the vessel was one of the best dry cargo liners of this category on the Register of the Shipping Corporation of India and was being utilised on the India-USA run. Before transfer to Bangladesh, the ship was put under a special survey. This survey was carried out by the Lloyds, the Premier classification Society, in the presence of senior officers of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation who stayed at Calcutta for this purpose for about a month prior to taking over delivery of the vessel. The ship was taken delivery of by the Chairman of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation and he had expressed his satisfaction over the ship. The reported peeling of paint, non-functioning of pumps and small fires in the engine room are by themselves very small incidents that can happen on any ship. The Shipping Corporation of India, however, sent its engineers to Colombo to look into these small things and to set them right if so required. The ship was, therefore, again surveyed by the Lloyds and they passed it again. In fact, no less a person than Mr. A. N. Hamidullah, Governor of the Bank of Bangladesh dismissed the criticism over the supply of this ship as just "so much noise."

**Long-term Loans to Economically Weaker sections of the Society for Construction of Houses**

1116. SHRI FATEH SINGH RAO  
GAEKWAD

SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population in the metropolitan cities living in one-room tenements;

(b) the total shortage of dwelling units at present in the country;

(c) the rates at which the availability and shortage of the dwelling units have been growing;

(d) whether Government propose to advance long term loans to economically weaker section of the Society for the construction of houses; and

(e) if so, the main features of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING ( SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT ) : (a) According to the data collected

during 1971 Census, about 47% of the population of eight metropolitan cities having population of more than 1 million each are living in one-room houses/tenements.

(b) and (c). the data collected during 1971 Census are still under compilation and, therefore, the requisite information is not available at present.

(d) and (e). The Government have already introduced a number of social housing schemes which aim at ameliorating the housing conditions of persons belonging to economically weaker sections of community. Most of these schemes envisage grant of long-term loans for construction of houses for the benefit of the weaker section. Material setting out the salient features of the schemes are available in the Parliament Library.

**U. N. D. P. Programme in setting up Ship Design and Research Centre in India**

1117. SHRI P. M. MEHTA :  
SHRI PURUSHOTTAM  
KAKODKAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme used to insist upon India in setting up a Ship Design and research Centre ; and

(b) whether U. N. D. P. will also provide a number of fellowships for technicians and Engineers of the Hindustan Shipyard and main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT ( SHRI OM MEHTA ) : (a) and (b). Certain proposals including the setting up of a Ship Design and Research Centre have been made for consideration of UNDP. These proposals include provision of fellowships for training facility of engineers and technicians of Indian Shipyards.

**Larger allocation for National Highways and other Central Road Project for the Year 1972-73**

1118. SHRI P. M. MEHTA  
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the union Ministry of finance