

not easy, since the implications and ramifications of each alternative have to be examined in depth.

**Negotiations with some countries for purchase of fishing trawler**

**6809. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been at negotiating with some countries other than Poland for purchase of fishing trawler; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The negotiations are in progress.

**Dilshad Garden Extension I Colony near Delhi-U.P. Border**

**6810. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dilshad Garden Extension I Colony near Delhi-U.P. Border was approved by the erstwhile Shahdra Municipality many years ago and many houses have already been built and people are already living there;

(b) if so, the reasons for not allowing the building activity in the said colony now, when all the necessary facilities have been provided by the colonisers in the said colony;

(c) whether not allowing building activity in the said colony for over

a decade now would lead to unauthorised constructions in the said colony; and

(d) steps taken by Government to allow building activity in the said colony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The question of payment of compensation for certain area of land under acquisition for plan requirements has been referred to a Sub-Committee of the Delhi Development Authority. Release of building activity will be considered after the Sub-Committee submits its report.

**Bombay-Agra National Highway**

**6811. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortening and broadening of the Bombay-Agra National Highway has been started;

(b) the allotment and time limit for completing the work between Thana and Dhulia;

(c) whether the work is being carried out by the C.P.W.D. itself or has been entrusted to private contractors;

(d) if the private contractors are doing it, what is the amount of wages they pay to the labour; and

(e) whether Government have any machinery to check up whether these payments are regularly made to the labourers and without any kind of illegal deductions?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) Yes, Sir In fact, the work in some of the stretches in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan has already been completed

(b) The work of upgrading of various sub-sections of Bhuwandi-Dhula section of the road has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 778.49 lakhs and is expected to be completed during the Fifth Plan period, subject to availability of funds

(c) The work is being carried out partly through the contractors and partly by the State Government departmentally

(d) and (e) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

#### Opening of Suez Canal

**6612. SHRI R S PANDEY** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports of likelihood of opening of Suez Canal and

(b) if so, the extent of saving on freight of our imports and exports?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No studies of the extent of saving of freight on our imports and exports have so far been made. This will also depend on the charges that the Suez Canal authorities will levy on the use of the canal after it is opened and the type and size of ships which will be able to navigate through it

Special Assistance during Fifth Plan for Drought Prone Areas of Maharashtra

**6613. SHRI ANJASAHEB GOKHINDE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Fact Finding Committee (Sukthankar Committee) set up by the State Government of Maharashtra has identified 87 Talukas in 12 districts of the State as drought prone,

(b) whether the criteria adopted by the said Committee closely follow those adopted by the Second Irrigation Commission which had identified areas in the districts of Aurangabad, Bhar and Osmanabad as drought prone areas,

(c) the amount of special assistance that would be given during the Fifth Plan period to the 8 districts in Maharashtra already recognised as drought prone districts;

(d) whether the Task Force set up by the Planning Commission on the integrated Agricultural Development which went into the question of drought prone areas could not visit some of the drought prone areas of Maharashtra and

(e) whether Government would give special assistance to the additional 8 districts declared by the State Government's drought prone and if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B P MAURYA):** (a) The Fact Finding Committee (1973) appointed by the Government of Maharashtra identified 83 talukas in 12 districts as drought prone.

(b) The Fact Finding Committee after considering a number of criteria