

(c) whether it is further a fact that these domestic quarrels are the results of paucity of finance in the middle and lower income group families; and

(d) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to improve the financial conditions of the middle and lower income group families and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha on receipt.

PARADEEP PORT

3428. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-ORAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Paradeep Port is being silted up very fast;

(b) whether the State Government have expressed their anxiety over this matter and have informed the Central Government to take immediate remedial measures; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to constant dredging and the rate at which silting is taking place?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Maintenance dredging at the port was undertaken on a contract basis in February, 1966. Later, a dredger was hired twice from the Calcutta Port Commissioners for maintenance dredging at the port, once in November 1966 and a second time in March, 1967. Paradeep Port's own maintenance dredger, which was received in January 1968, has also since been commissioned into service at the port. In addition, a cutter-suction dredger belonging to the Minor Ports Dredging and Survey Organisation of the Government of India was also deployed for work at Paradeep Port simultaneously with the Port's own dredger from January to May 1968. In view of the fact that there still exists considerable backlog of maintenance dredging, arrangements have been made to

send once again a dredger belonging to the Calcutta Port Commissioners for tackling the immediate problem of siltation there. A Study Team has also been appointed recently for a thorough investigation into the siltation problems at Paradeep and to suggest remedial measures.

DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR PORTS

3430. SHRI N. K. SOMANI:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA:

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

(a) whether the Committee on Ports of the National Conference of Shipping, Shipbuilding and Ports has submitted a report recently urging Government to undertake a crash programme for the development of major ports in India;

(b) the total capital outlay envisaged for this programme;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the traffic at the Indian ports and to increase productivity of workers; and

(d) the steps being taken to cut down the pilferage of goods and cargo at the ports?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) The Committee on Ports of the National Conference on Shipping, Shipbuilding and Ports held in December, 1967 made several recommendations for developing the facilities at Indian Ports and for improving their operational efficiency. These recommendations have been kept in view by the port authorities in drawing up their programme for development during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(b) The financial implications of the recommendations can be assessed only in the light of the specific programmes to be formulated for the development of ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(c) Ports by themselves cannot generate traffic but can only provide facilities for handling traffic and reorient them according to the needs of the changing traffic. In drawing up their Fourth Five Year Plan programmes, the port authorities are keeping in view the anticipated growth of traffic in respect of important commodities in future and are making a conscious effort