

(b) and (c). The river route by the Brahmaputra to Calcutta was suspended in September, 1965, following the Indo-Pakistan hostilities. Ever since the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, the Government of India have been making constant efforts to discuss with the Government of Pakistan all outstanding problems including the resumption of river transport between West Bengal and Assam through East Pakistan. The response from the Government of Pakistan has not been encouraging.

#### Archaeological Exploration in Gujarat

4561. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether further efforts have been made for carrying out archaeological explorations or excavations in Gujarat during 1967-68 or 1968-69;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake further explorations of the Narmada Valley Civilization in the Districts of Baroda and Broach in Gujarat ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAI-PAL SINGH) : (a) During 1967-68, excavation was conducted at Dhatva, District Surat by M.S. University of Baroda and explorations were carried out in Districts Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bhavnagar, Broach, Sabarkantha, Surendernagar, Surat, Junagadh, Kutch, Mehsana and Rajkot by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Department of Archaeology, Gujarat.

During 1968-69 excavations are planned to be conducted at Sathod, District Baroda; Nagar, District Junagadh; Ghumli, District Jamnagar and explorations at Khari and Thuki Valley, District Kutch; Saraswati Valley, District Mehsana; and Annas Valley, District Panchmahal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This will be considered in due course.

#### Shipping Corporation of India

4562. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has proper rules of staff recruitment for jobs carrying more than Rs. 500 p.m. for purchase, contracts and sales and, if so, what are those rules and since when they are in force; and

(b) whether at any time a general assessment of the working of the Corporation has been made and, if so, the results thereof and, if not, whether Government have any idea of securing the services of any expert in order to bring about improvement in its working ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHURAMAIAH) :

(a) Yes Sir. The Corporation has prescribed rules for recruitment of staff for jobs carrying salaries of more than Rs. 500 p.m. In appropriate cases, vacancies are suitably advertised in newspapers. Recruitment is based on merit, experience and suitability. Selections for recruitment are made on the basis of interviews by Committees which have been constituted within the Corporation for the selection of candidates. The Rules also provide for specific periods of probation. The Corporation also has rules and procedures in force concerning the purchases of goods and services and for concluding contracts. The Corporation has to purchase fuel and lubricating oils, marine paints, stores and spare parts etc. for operating its vessels. It has to conclude various contracts for obtaining services like stevedoring, chipping and painting of vessels, victualling on vessels, insurance of vessels etc.

(b) A general assessment of the working of the Corporation is made from time to time. A regular system of Internal audit has always been in force in the Corporation. In addition, the accounts of the