

ping Agreement entered into in the month of May, 1970; and

(b) the period for which the aforesaid agreement will be operative ?

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

(a) An agreement was signed between the Government of India and the Government of the USSR on the 6th April, 1956 for the establishment of a regular shipping service between the two countries. The position has been reviewed from time to time since then and a number of Protocols have been signed by the two Governments between the years 1958 and 1968. The working of this agreement was recently reviewed and a Unified Protocol was signed between the two parties on the 26th May, 1970, codifying all the decisions into a single document. This Unified Protocol shall be deemed as an annexure to the main agreement of 6th April, 1956.

2. Some of the important features of the Unified Protocol are given below :

- (1) The Indo-Soviet joint Shipping Service would be operated on a liner basis between the ports of India and the ports of USSR in Black Sea.
- (2) Each partner will avoid competition with the national fleet of the other in the established trade routes of the latter, and desist from such activities which would prejudice the growth and utilisation of the merchant fleet of each other.
- (3) Complete equality shall prevail in all activities concerning the operation of this service. In particular the principle of parity will apply to both liftings and earnings in both directions.
- (4) No income-tax shall be levied or collected by the Government of India on the freight earnings at the Indian ports of Soviet ships and no tax shall be levied or collected by the Government of USSR on the freight of Indian ships at Soviet ports.
- (5) The shipowners will have the right to appoint stevedores at each port in India, with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.

(6) Indian vessels at the Soviet ports and the Soviet vessels at Indian ports may receive bunkers (liquid and coal), lubricating materials and other provisions including food-stuffs for the crew at usual prices and on usual conditions prevailing at the ports of both the countries.

(7) Facilities would be provided for Soviet ships at the Indian ports and for effecting repairs and dry-docking.

(8) Only ships of the respective national flags will be employed in the joint service; provided that if at any time either side feels the need to operate third flag time charters, the approval of other partner would be obtained.

(b) This Unified Protocol came into force from the 26th May, 1970 and shall continue to be in force until either Party declare their intention to determine it by giving three month's notice in writing to the other Party.

A. R. C. Report on Centre-State Relations

917. **SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1528 on the 8th May, 1970 and state the steps taken so far in implementation of the Report of the Administrative Reforms Commission on Centre-State Relations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The report is still under examination.

पुराने राष्ट्रीय राजपथ संख्या 8 की मरम्मत

918. **श्री भीला नाथ मास्टर:** क्या नौबहन तथा परिवहन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान के झलवर जिले से गुजरने वाले पुराने राष्ट्रीय राजपथ संख्या 8 को गत सितम्बर में बाढ़ से कितनी क्षति हुई ; और