

*Specifications —INS Darshak**Main Particulars of the Ship*

(a)	Length	—	87.75 m
(b)	Beam	—	12.80 m
(c)	Draught	—	3.43 m
(d)	Displacement	—	1820 tons
(e)	Complement	—	178 Persons
(f)	Maximum Speed	—	16 Knots

**Additional Funds for Andhra Pradesh**

1397. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO has sanctioned additional funds to State Government of Andhra Pradesh for various housing projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the extent by which the additional amount is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) HUDCO's annual housing loan allocation is made amongst the States/UTs in two stages. Fifty percent of the allocation is distributed at the beginning of financial year based on area & population criteria. Based on the demand and performance of the States/UTs as well as area & population, balance 50% is later allocated to States. During the year 1998-99 the initial 50% allocation made to A.P. is Rs. 54.01 crores for housing schemes. As the final allocation based on the States demand is yet to be made, question of sanctioning additional fund does not arise at this stage.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

**Direct Air India Flight between Hyderabad—Mecca**

1398. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has launched a direct non-stop international flight between Hyderabad to Mecca;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to operate twice a week airbus (A-310) flight between Hyderabad and Mecca;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to have direct flight to Singapore from Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Air India has commenced twice weekly operations between Hyderabad and Singapore effective 29th March, 1998.

**Expansion of Steel Plants**

1399. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector steel plant units which are under expansion and yet to be commissioned;

(b) whether there are any units which have already been commissioned but are lying idle or are working below their utilisation capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The following two Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. are under expansion/modernisation and all planned facilities are yet to be commissioned :

1. Rourkela Steel Plant
2. Bokaro Steel Plant

(b) and (c) The expansion/modernisation programme for Durgapur Steel Plant has already been completed and no unit is lying idle after commissioning. However, the modernised facilities are under stabilisation, therefore, yet to attain their full capacities.

**Consignment of Weapons Intercepted by Indian Navy**

1400. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of weapons was intercepted by the Indian Navy on Longoff island in the Andamans recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigations have been made to ascertain as to who were the people behind the consignment of weapons and for which country was it destined and the persons for whom to be used; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the air, road and water routes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In a combined Services