

with World Bank assistance and it is proposed to cover more States in the subsequent phases of this project with a view to ensuring *interalia* that there is proper screening of patients and facilities are provided at different levels of health infrastructure to prevent over-crowding in Government hospitals.

Export of Foodgrains from Indian Ports

*87. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years;

(b) whether the export of foodgrains is being delayed; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government for timely export of foodgrains from the ports?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) The quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years (1996-97 & 1997-98) is given below:—

1996-97	37.29 Lakh Tonnes
1997-98	22.89 Lakh Tonnes

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Demurrage Costs to be Paid by Oil Companies

*88. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the failure of Indian Oil Corporation to undertake timely repairs of its storage tanks has proved to be a very costly proposition to the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the demurrage cost incurred per day as a result of keeping ships waiting and total amount due as on date on the count; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such lapses on the part of oil companies in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Out of total 1932 tanks at marketing terminals, installations and Depots of Indian Oil Corporation, only 51 tanks are at present out of service for repair and maintenance.

(c) The demurrage rate varies from ship-to-ship and the prevailing market conditions including the exchange rate. The provisional demurrage amount for the period April-December, 1998 works out to Rs. 374.27 crore (average per day Rs. 1.36 crore at the average exchange rate of Rs. 41.72/US\$.)

(d) Import of Petroleum Products is planned having regard to the processing schedule of refineries, the monthly demand pattern within the country and the need to maintain strategic inventory levels. The oil industry incurs demurrage partly due to non-availability of berth/ullage and partly due to requirement of keeping some inventory floating in the High Seas. With a view to optimise utilisation of available port infrastructure and to achieve reduction in the detention of the tankers, a number of steps have been initiated by the oil industries. These *interalia*, include commissioning of two virtual jetties at Kandla, offshore lirage of product import tankers at Kandla, commissioning of Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline/augmentation of tankage at coastal locations; commissioning of second SBM at Vadinar etc.

[Translation]

Express Highways and Golden Quadrilateral Projects

*89. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and the estimated cost of the proposed express highways projects of North-South, East-West and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metros;

(b) the sources through which the required funds are proposed to be raised;

(c) whether the Government propose to involve private investment both indigenous as well as foreign, in these mega projects;