

[English]

SCI Agreement about service conditions of Indian Seamen

10219. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has entered into any agreement with the hinterland Seamen Union in the past about the service conditions of seamen;

(b) if so, whether according to that agreement the seamen completing one year service may take two months leave; and

(c) if so, whether the same agreement is still in operation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the agreement, seamen are entitled to 81 days' leave with basic wages for each completed year of articulated service for the period from 1.4.1988 to 31.3.1990.

(c) The agreement was effective till 31.3.1990 but, in terms of clause 1 of the agreement, it would continue to be valid beyond 31.3.1990 until replaced by a fresh agreement.

[Translation]

DTC Bus-Queue Shelters

10220. SHRI RAM AWADH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no bus queue shelter in the entire strength of the road from Loni road to Inderpuri;

(b) whether there is any proposal for constructing bus-queue shelters in this stretch of the road; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. There are eight Bus Queue Shelters in this stretch of the route.

(b) and (c). The present number of bus-queue shelters are considered adequate. As such, there is no proposal to construct any more shelters.

[English]

Patenting of Horticultural and Agricultural Products

10221. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural and horticultural products are patentable under the Indian Patent Laws;

(b) if not, whether some developed countries are attempting to introduce patent laws for new plant varieties and pressuring developing countries like India to change their patent laws;

(c) whether Government have assessed the extent to which patenting will effect free exchange of genetic stocks, vital for agricultural research and growth; and

(d) Government's thinking on granting recognition to plant breeders by allowing their new plant varieties to be patented and the exchange of genetic material between the countries?