

[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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some developed countries have Patent Laws and some legislation for new plant varieties. The question of India adopting any changes in the Patent Law under any foreign pressure does not arise, and decisions are taken only in the national interest.

(c) and (d). There is no specific proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Reconstruction of over Bridge across Railway line in Thanjavur Town

10222. SHRI S. SINGHARAVADIVEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal submitted by Tamil Nadu Government for the reconstruction of an over bridge across the Railway line (Thanjavur-Trichy), in Thanjavur Town, under the Central Road Fund is pending with Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for early clearance of the Project?

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

(b) and (c). As the actual augmentation of the Central Road Fund against which the proposals were invited has not yet taken place, processing of the proposals has not yet been taken up. Soon after the actual augmentation takes place, schemes projected by the various State Governments including Tamil Nadu will be taken up for approval keeping in view the interse priority assigned by the State Governments and availability of funds.

Assistance for Modernisation of Police Forces in Andhra Pradesh

10223. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance released to Government of Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of its police forces during the last three years;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have sought assistance for modernisation of police forces during 1990; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The financial assistance released to the government of Andhra Pradesh for modernisation of its police forces during the last three years is as follows:—

1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
1	2	3
Rs. 63.76 lakhs	Rs. 63.76 lakhs	Rs. 40.00 lakhs

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.