

**Trainees Working in Cochin Shipyard**

\*962. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of apprentice trainees working in the Cochin Shipyard;

(b) the period for which these trainees have been working continuously; and

(c) the reasons for not absorbing them so far if they have rendered continuous service for 4 or 5 years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). At present 109 apprentices are undergoing training since September 1984 under the Apprentices Act. In addition, CSL has also taken 127 apprentices in two batches of 99 in June 1984 and 28 in January 1985 respectively for intensive training under the Company's own scheme. These intensive trainees could not be absorbed earlier for want of vacancies in the shipyard

**Air-Strip for Agatti Island**

\*963 SHRI P M SAYEED  
SHRIMATI N P JHANSI  
LAKSHMI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to construct an air-strip at Agatti Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is being implemented;

(b) whether construction contract has since been awarded to some firm and if so, the details thereof, including terms and conditions; and

(c) the estimated cost and the time by which the air-strip is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The work has been awarded to the National Buildings Construction Corporation on the 31st of March, 1987 through the International Airports Authority of India by calling tenders.

The terms and general conditions of contract are as per CPWD. All the construction material except cement and bitumen are to be arranged by the contractor including its transportation to the project site. Cement and bitumen will be issued by International Airports Authority of India at Mangalore on stipulated rates given in the Agreement. Mobilisation advance equal to 15% of the contract amount which will be recoverable on pro-rata basis, will be given. Security advance on material shall be granted on collection of material at Mangalore/Agatti.

(c) The project is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 7.20 crores and is likely to be completed by the end of March, 1988.

**High speed Passenger Boat Service from Bombay to Panaji-Mangalore**

@\*867. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the urgent need of high speed passenger boat service from Bombay to Panaji-Mangalore;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving clearance to the applications received for introducing such a service;

(c) the parties from whom the project report together with requisite technical details have been received; and

(d) the time by which necessary clearance will be given so that the service could be introduced without delay for the benefit of the backward Konkan region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d). A pro-