

- (iv) Trailors 16 Nos.
 (v) Small Forklifts 15 Nos.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Sir, Cochin Port was once called the queen of the Arabian Sea. Now this port is in such a crippled stage and had become the widow of the Arabian sea. There has been proposals to modernise the Cochin Port. One proposal was for the integrated container terminal in the Port and the second thing was for starting an international container terminal at Vallarpadam island which is a newly reclaimed island by the port itself. If this international terminal can be started at Vallarpadam, then all the international ships having the containers, which are now using Colombo as a station for transferring these containers, can make use of Cochin for this purpose. So, I would like to know what has happened to the second proposal of having an international container terminal project at Vallarpadam.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There is a suggestion about a transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam. However, this is at a very very preliminary stage and various aspects are being thought about it through this suggestion about the preparation of feasibility report, terms of reference and all the other processes that are concerned with the initiation of any implementation of such a suggestion. As I said, it is still a suggestion and thinking on this suggestion is still at a very preliminary stage.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : There are two projects. One is to modernise the present Cochin Port for containerisation and the second is the Vallarpadam project. The another thing is that Cochin had a dredger called 'Lady Wellington' which was working for more than one hundred years and now it is out of commission. There is a proposal with the Government of India to have a new dredger. Now the present position in Cochin Port is that about fifty per cent of the income of the Cochin Port is being given to the Dredging Corporation of India just for doing the dredging work. So, the Cochin Port would like to have its own dredger. This proposal is with the Government of India for more than ten years. Now they asked for tenders and tenders are with the Government. So, I would request the Government to take an immediate decision

so that atleast the income of the Cochin Port remains with the Cochin Port, otherwise more than fifty per cent of the income is being transferred to the Dredging Corporation of India.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the Hon. Member is correct in saying that Lady Wellington has outlived her economic life and it is very necessary to acquire a new dredger. The Ministry has already taken a decision to acquire such a new dredger. The tender responses are under evaluation and I think we should be in a position to take some decision in the next few months.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, the main handicap of the Cochin Port is the linkage. This is a man-made island where wharfing is taking place, but it is not connected by proper roads. One Bristow who founded it, made two bridges and they are still in use. But they have outlived their life. This is always a great bottleneck. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to link this port with the southern side of Cochin, that is, with the Alleppy district area where a national level road can be constructed. On the other side, this road can be connected with the Ernakulam mainland of Kerala. So, I would like to know whether there is any such proposal pending with the Government, and if not, whether the Government will consider this proposal and revive the present condition of the Cochin Port.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, these are very precise details of the proposal. I will certainly make enquiries and inform the Hon. Member. However, I would have imagined that the setting up of the integrated container terminal of such a large size would have involved a study of the development of the infrastructure in a comprehensive manner. But I cannot tell the Hon. Member whether this is a part of the proposal. However, I will make enquiries and let the Hon. Member know.

Staff strength at the Indian Language
 Department of Banaras Hindu
 University

*86 **SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :**
 Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2757 on 13 August, 1987 and state :

(a) when proposals from Banaras Hindu University for creation of additional posts each of Professor, Reader and Lecturer were received;

(b) the progress made with regard to sanction of these additional posts;

(c) the present sanctioned strength of academic staff in each section under Indian Language Department of Banaras Hindu University; and

(d) the present strength of students in each section under Indian Language Department of Banaras Hindu University and separately for Nepali Section ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission the proposal from the Banaras Hindu University for creation of two of these posts was received on 21 April, 1987 and the proposal for creation of all these posts was received on 21 July, 1987 by the Commission. The proposal is under examination by the Commission.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

I would like to assure the Hon. Member that we appreciate the manner in which she has been pursuing this matter of Nepali in Banaras Hindu University. The matter is now being considered. May be it is at the final stages of consideration by the University Grants Commission. I would personally take some interest in it and see that the decision is given as early as possible.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Sir, I am surprised to hear the same reply from the Hon. Minister as was given to me on 13th of August by the State Minister Shrimati Krishna Sabi Ji. Today also the Hon. Minister has given the same reply saying that the information is being collected

and will be laid on the Table of the House. I wonder how long our Government take to collect such simple information.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, obviously it is taking a little time because probably it involves going a little out of the way in the case of Nepali. There are certain norms as to how many students have to be there for the creation of a Professor's post, of Reader's post, of a Lecturer's post. Maybe, the UGC does not find this proposal fitting properly into the accepted norms. That is why it is my surmise that it is taking a longer time. I will certainly request them that Nepali language has to be given some consideration in the Banaras Hindu University and if it is possible, we will try to expedite it. There is no other opinion about it. The only thing is the UGC has been considering the proposal for some time.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Sir, I have all the information and the comparative list of different languages also. I can pass it on to him if it helps him in any way to fulfil our request. I will give this statement to him.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Yes.

Computerisation of Centralised Traffic Control and Passenger Information System in Delhi

*87. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Northern Railway propose to instal a Computer operated centralised traffic control and passenger information system in Delhi to facilitate smooth train operation and provision of fast and accurate information to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project would provide micro-