

(c) Discussions with Nepal are expected to be continued in the near future and a date and venue of the next meeting will be decided by the two countries in consultation with each other.

Revitalising Ship Building Industry

*903. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the deteriorating condition of the ship building industry due to lack of adequate infrastructure facilities and growing trend of import of vessels ; and

(b) what steps Government propose to initiate to revitalise the ship building industry and to help in updating and modernising the technology ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY) : (a) While the ship building industry in this country has to grow considerably before it can satisfy the requirements of our national shipping, it may not be correct to state that the condition of the industry is deteriorating. Infrastructure facilities are being improved and modernised. Import of vessels is being allowed only to the extent the demand cannot be met indigenously.

(b) To revitalise the ship building industry and update and modernise technology, some of the important steps initiated by Government are as follows :

- (i) Expansion and modernisation of Hindustan Shipyard Limited at a cost of Rs. 55 crores to increase its capacity from 42000 GRT to 98000 GRT.
- (ii) Expansion and modernisation of Cochin Shipyard Limited at a cost of Rs. 45 crores to increase its capacity from one lakh GRT to two lakh GRT.
- (iii) Updating the shipbuilding and management techniques at Cochin

Shipyard Limited with advanced foreign collaboration.

- (iv) A revised scheme of subsidies to Indian Shipyards for construction of sea-going vessels and fishing trawlers to the extent of 30% of the international parity price in the case of the former and 33% of the cost in the case of the latter.
- (v) Proposals to set up a Central Marine Design and Research Organisation (CMDRO).
- (vi) Proposal to set up an Indian Ship Hydrodynamic Centre (ISHC) at Pune.
- (vii) Modernisation and expansion of Rajabagan Dockyard, Calcutta at a cost of approximately Rs. 7.00 crores.
- (viii) Services of a UNDP Expert have been obtained to advise on the development of ship building and shiprepair facilities in India. A separate Shipbuilding and ship-repair Wing has been created in the Ministry.
- (ix) A Committee has been set up to study the problems of the indigenous floating craft industry in depth and suggest suitable steps for its development.

Running of a Passenger Train on Dhanbad Sindri Line

*904. SHRI A.K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to run a passenger train on Dhanbad Sindri Line, Eastern Railway has been rejected by the Railways several times in the past ;

(b) whether it is seriously hampering the development of the Fertiliser Complex at Sindri ;

(c) whether the Fertiliser Corporation of India also approached the Railways for this facility ; and