

(b) if so, the amount involved in purchasing these ships ; and

(c) the total foreign exchange implication of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SANSIDYA KARYA
TATHA NAUWAHAN AUR PARIVAHAN
MANTRI) (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :
(a) to (c). Government of India do
not acquire ships themselves but they
approve proposals submitted by Shipping
Companies.

During 1970-71, the acquisition of 26
vessels of 6.05 lakhs GRT costing Rs.
161.44 crores was approved by Government.
After 1.4.1971, acquisition of 3 more vessels
of 1.51 lakhs GRT has also been approved
at a cost of about Rs. 15'00 crores. Pro-
posals submitted by 4 shipping companies
for acquisition of 6 vessels with 2.76 lakhs
GRT costing approximately Rs. 59 crores,
all of it being payable in foreign exchange,
are under various stages of consideration.

{ Hindi Medium in Kendriya
Vidyalayas

*144. SHRI JADEJA : Will the
Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL
WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ
KALYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have urged
the Kendriya Vidyalayas to switch over to
the Hindi medium from the new academic
year ;

(b) whether this directive of the
Central Government has caused resentment
among parents and teachers of non-Hindi
regions particularly Kerala State ; and

(c) If so, the reaction of Central
Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR
SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRALAYA MEN
UP-MANTRI) (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) :
(a) to (c). No, Sir. No such direc-
tive has been issued by the Government.
However, in April, 71, reports appeared in
some sections of the Press giving an
impression that Union Ministry has issued
directives, which would lead to the conver-
sion of the Kendriya Vidyalayas into
completely Hindi-medium Schools. Since
this was not factually correct, a 'Press
Note' was issued immediately contradic-
ting the false reports.

Agreement for Imports under PL. 480
Programme

*145. DR. SARADISH ROY !
SHRI M. M. JOSEPH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE
(VITTA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have signed
another PL. 480 agreement covering
commodities worth \$ 120 million in April,
1971 ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to
take positive steps to stop dependence on
480 imports which play an increasing role
in our economic affairs ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(VITTA MANTRI) (SHRI YESWANT
RAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.
A statement containing a note giving
main features of the Agreement is laid
on the Table of the House. Copies of
the Agreement have been placed in the
Library of the Parliament separately for
the information of the Hon'ble Members,

(c) and (d) : Yes, Sir. Government have already announced their decision to stop concessional import of foodgrains after end of 1971. Import of cotton and soyabean oil will however have to be continued for some years because of the large gap between indigenous production of cotton and edible oils and the growing needs of the economy. Efforts are being made to increase the internal production of these commodities also as quickly as possible.

Statement

Main features of the PL. 480 Agreement signed on 1-4-1971 as amended.

A PL. 480 Agreement was signed with the US Govt. on 1st April, 1971 for the supply of Agricultural Commodities from that country. The value of this Agreement was slightly increased in May 1971 (from \$ 150.00 million to \$ 158.3 million). Taken with these additions, the agreement provides for an import of 15,70,000 tonnes of wheat, 250,000 Indian bales of cotton (200,000 bales in terms of US bales) and 102,000 tonnes of soyabean oil valued at \$ 158.3 million. About 80% of the imports do not require rupee payment; these will be under what are called Convertible Local Currency Credit Terms i. e. repayable in dollars over a period of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years. The remaining 20% imports will be paid for in rupees, which rupees in turn have been earmarked for loan to Govt. of India 93%, and US uses 7%. Both the dollar and the rupees loan will carry interest at 2% during the first 10 years and 3% during the subsequent 30 years.

2. The Agreement further allows the U.S. to convert \$ 7.5 million from the rupees earmarked for their uses into third country currencies for agricultural and educational exchange activities and for sale to U.S. tourists and citizens in India.

Mithila University

*146. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :
Will the Minister of EDUCATION

AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the executor of Darbhanga Raj has formally handed over the Raj Head Office, Library and Guest House worth above Rs. 2 crores to the Chief Minister of Bihar for the proposed Mithila University ; and

(b) if so, what are the obstructions in immediately starting the University ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHIKSHA AUR SAMAJ KALYAN MANTRALAYA MEN UPAMANTRI) (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) ;

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

छोटे सिक्कों की कमी

147 श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रूड्डी :

श्री मोहन स्वरूप :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश के कई भागों में छोटे सिक्कों की कमी अभी तक बनी हुई है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या 20 पैसे का सिक्का फाउन्टेन 'पैनों की निचों बनाने के उद्देश्य से पिबलाया जा रहा है और जिसकी कीमत बाजार में काफी बढ़ गई है; और

(घ) इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाई कर रही है ?