

4. If the award for a degree or diploma or examination depends on the performance of a student in a number of courses, these courses should be delinked from each other, so that if a student has failed to make the grades in a particular course he may not be penalised in other courses due to this failure. The delinking of courses in this manner will allow movement of students, if necessary, from one institution to another, and from one type of study to another.

5. The performance of students must be assessed over well-distributed intervals of time so that a course which is completed in a year or a semester must come up for examination at the end of the year or the semester, without having to wait for 'final' examination.

6. The performance of students cannot be measured so accurately and so unambiguously as to be recorded in marks and since the standards of judgment for various subjects are also different, students must be awarded grades and not marks at the examinations and assessments.

7. Examinations to determine the terminal performance of students in a course or towards a degree, or measure of achievement should be distinguished from entrance examinations (which may partly be aptitudinal and predictive) to either service or other courses of study. This implies that institutions preparing students for certain degrees should hold examinations/assessment as an integral part of their teaching programme.

On the other hand, if the number of applicants for admission to an institution exceeds the number of seats, the institution should hold its own entrance examination/tests so that the fitness of a student for the particular course may be judged on a common basis.

8. A National examination in various subjects at the bachelor's level may be conducted by a central authority, on a purely voluntary basis. This ex-

amination could be designed to test creative thinking and comprehension of subject matter, so as to serve as a national index of performance and achievement by students at large and of various institutions. The examination ought to be conducted in all the regional languages and English and it should use a modern syllabus and the best techniques of paper setting, evaluation and processing of raw scores. A certificate carrying a grade should be issued to only those participants who achieve the higher grade. The examination should be open to everyone who wishes to take it.

9. In order to provide an opportunity of further study to those who fail to gain admission to any institution, correspondence courses should be widely organised and courses should be run by the 'open university' so that one who so desires may get a degree by appearing at the examinations conducted by such a university, or national board, even without formalities of enrolment or attendance.

Agitation regarding resumption of suspended West Coast Konkan Steamer Service

*12. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agitation was launched on the 4th October, 1973 for the resumption of the suspended West Coast Konkan Steamer Service without increased fares;

(b) if so, what were the demands of the organisers of the agitation;

(c) whether the sponsors of the agitation have informed Government that in case grievances regarding the Konkan Steamer Service are not redressed, agitation would be extended to all ports from Goa to Bombay; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra have reported that there was an agitation in Malwan and that the demands of the agitators were as follows:

- (1) Resumption of steamer service to Malwan;
- (2) No increase in fares; and
- (3) Resumption of Konkan Steamer service.

(c) The State Government have no information about this.

(d) The Central Government have, through the Konkan passenger Ships (Acquisition) Ordinance 1973 (4 of 1973), acquired the two ships m.v. "Konkan Sewak" and m.v. "Sarita" with which this service was being run by M/s. Chowgule Steamships Ltd. and have subsequently vested the ownership of the ships in the public sector Mogul Line Ltd. who will generally operate the service on a "no profit no loss basis". It is expected that the service will be commenced in the near future. The schedule of services will be drawn up by the Mogul Lines Limited keeping all relevant factors into consideration.

Shortage of fertilisers

***13. SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:**

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a heavy shortfall in domestic production of fertilisers and bleak import prospects have created serious doubts about realising the targeted production of 68 million tonnes of rabi cereals during 1973-74;

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

(c) the steps being taken in this regard by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) There are likely to be some constraints in the availability of fertilisers, especially nitrogenous fertilisers, during the Rabi 1973-74 season. Anticipating this situation, the Ministry of Agriculture had taken up special measures to minimise the effect of the shortage of fertilisers, on production. These steps include intensive campaigns for the utilisation of organic manures, available and implementation of the recommendations of the I.C.A.R. for the better utilisation of fertilisers, utilisation of fertilisers on a priority basis in high potential low-risk areas, etc. It is hoped that with these special measures, we may be able to achieve the targeted production of 48 million tonnes of Rabi cereals during 1973-74;

(b) The shortage in the availability of fertilisers has been mainly because of shortfalls in domestic production and the inadequate availability of fertilisers in the World market.

(c) In order to improve the availability position, the following steps have been taken: —

1. Efforts are being made to maximise the capacity utilisation of the domestic fertiliser factories.
2. A coordinated supply plan has been drawn up in the Zonal Conferences after discussions with the representatives of the State Governments and domestic manufacturers. Orders under the Essential Commodities Act have been issued thereafter, making it legally obligatory for the domestic manufacturers to supply the quantities of fertilisers committed by them to each State at the Conferences.
3. The States have been advised to prepare a careful inventory of the stocks available in the godowns both of the cooperative and retail dealers and review it frequently in order to ensure timely and equitable distribution of the available fertilisers.