

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b). The Government of India does not acquire tankers of its own. Shipping companies both in the public and private sector, acquire ships including tankers. The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., a public sector undertaking, has at present 8 tankers of 2.20 lakhs GRT in operation and 19 tankers of 8.94 lakhs GRT on order.

Increase in Coastal Shipping Tonnage

*104. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coastal Shipping has been found to be the most economical mode of transport among the coastal towns for carrying bulk cargoes;

(b) if so, whether Government is thinking to go in a big way for Coastal Shipping tonnage; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof including tonnage obtained from Rumania since 1972?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) Coastal Shipping is generally regarded as an economical mode of transport for bulk commodities;

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The tentative target for coastal dry cargo shipping in the Fifth Plan is 6 lakhs GRT. This will involve a substantial expansion from the current operative coastal dry cargo tonnage of 1.41 lakh GRT. Orders have been placed in Rumania for 10 ships of 18,000 DWT each. One has been delivered recently and the remaining 9 are expected to be delivered by January, 1976.

Cases of Food and Drug Adulteration

*105. SHRI M. S. PURTY:

DR. GOVIND DAS RICHHARIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases brought to the notice of Government regarding food and drug adulteration during the last six months, in the Union Territories, separately; and

(b) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Prevention of Food Adulteration.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is implemented by and large by local bodies. In certain States the State Governments also implement the Act. The State Governments have, from time to time, been requested to check this menace. The following additional steps have been taken by the Government of India:—

(i) The Act was amended in 1964 whereby the penalty clause was made more deterrent and the Government of India was also given concurrent powers to appoint their food inspectors and public analysis for checking adulteration at inter-state level as well as at manufacturers, wholesalers or other levels wherever considered necessary.

(ii) A special squad has been established at the Directorate General of Health Services to investigate the