

Ship Breaking Industry

*78. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote ship-breaking as an organised industry to augment the availability of scrap;

(b) if so, the ports where this ship-breaking industry is proposed to be started; and

(c) what is the mechanism and agency for buying old ships and making them available to local entrepreneurs for breaking?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to spread the ship breaking activity to as many ports as possible, depending on their suitability to accommodate different types of ships for breaking and sites being made available for this purpose.

(c) Import of re-rollable scrap in the form of old ships for breaking is canalised through Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC). The Corporation will directly negotiate and purchase old ships from abroad for breaking, on the advice of a committee consisting of representatives of MSTC, Iron and Steel Controller, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and representative of Finance Department of SAIL. It will float limited tenders amongst the units who register their requirements with the canalising agency. The vessel will be allotted to the highest valid bidder.

Extension to Chief Labour Commissioner

*79. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether the declared policy of Government in retiring officers and

staff at the age of 58 years has been violated in the Labour Ministry by giving two-six-months extensions after 58 years of age to the present Chief Labour Commissioner; and

(b) the reasons for such extensions against the declared policy of Government by blocking the due promotions of deserving officers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):

(a) and (b): Extensions have been given in the public interest.

Discussions held with Sri Lanka President

*80. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of Sri Lanka visited India during the month of October, 1978;

(b) if so, nature of discussions held with the Indian leaders; and

(c) the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BISHARI VAJPAYEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Discussions with president Jayewardene covered important international issues as well as bilateral co-operation. It was agreed that the Indo-Sri Lanka Sub-Committee on Economic Co-operation should meet more frequently and the two Governments will exchange delegations to suggest methods to increase trade flows and to stimulate investment in joint ventures in Sri Lanka.

Shortage of accommodation in Poona City Sorting Office and Pune RMS

602. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3628 on the