

quarters of the Marg are situated at Anandnagar, Bagalata village in Purulia district of West Bengal. Government have no precise information regarding the total membership and the number of branches in India. Government have no information regarding branches outside India.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected.

(e) Government have no such information.

(f) Does not arise.

Development of Major Ports to Received Big Tankers

*296. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have executed the work of expanding the major ports in order to make them suitable to receive big tankers;

(b) if so, the ports where the work has started;

(c) whether Government have sanctioned funds for the construction of cargo berth at Paradeep Port for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) and (b). Presumably, the Honourable Member has in mind the question of expansion of facilities at major ports to receive large size oil tankers. The position in this regard at the various major ports is as follows:—

At Calcutta, one of the jetties at Budge Budge has been expanded to take large tankers of 610 feet to 615 feet in length. An oil jetty has been built at Haldia and is expected to be commissioned shortly. The jetty will cater to tankers of any length but with draft of 30 feet initially and 38 feet ultimately by 1971 after the necessary capital dredging and reclamation works have been completed.

At Bombay, one of the berths in the Marine Oil Terminal has been improved to receive tankers upto 53,000 DWT with drafts up to 42 feet.

At Madras, a new outer harbour is under construction. This provides for an oil berth which has been designed to receive tankers of 77,000 DWT initially and 100,000 DWT ultimately. The berth is expected to be ready by April, 1969.

At Cochin, the feasibility of building an off-shore terminal to handle deep drafted oil tankers, which would be bringing crude oil for the Cochin Refinery, is under technical investigation by consultants appointed for the purpose.

At Visakhapatnam, facilities already exist to receive tankers ranging from 33,000 DWT to 37,000 DWT with a maximum draft of 33 feet.

At Mormugao, the development programme of the port includes provision for the establishment of a new oil berth to cater to tankers of 38 feet draft. The work will be taken up as soon as the project is sanctioned.

(c) and (d). The estimate for the construction of a general cargo berth at Paradip is under examination. A provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made in Annual Plan programme of Paradip Port for 1968-69 for the construction of this berth.

Offer of T.U. 134 Russian Planes

*297. SHRIMATI SUSEELA

GOPALAN;

SHRI B. K. MODAK;

SHRI K. RAMANI;

SHRI MRITYUNJAY

PRASAD;

SHRI KAMESHWAR

SINGH;

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI

SINHA;

SHRI B. N. SHASTRI;

SHRI R. BARUA;

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit of the Commerce Minister to the Soviet Union, the Chairman of the Soviet Aviation Export Company offered to supply TU 134 planes in exchange of traditional Indian export items;

(b) whether Government have considered the offer; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal to acquire new planes, including TU 134 planes, to augment the Indian Airlines fleet of aircraft is under consideration of Government.

Development of Major Ports During Fourth Plan

*298. **SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for the development and modernisation of major ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan have been finalised;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Fourth Five Year Plan programme for major ports is being formulated.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

बद्रीनाथ तथा ऋषिकेश में तीर्थ यात्रियों पर्यटकों के लिये सुविधाएँ

*299. **श्री शारदानन्द :**
श्री श्रीकार सिंह :

क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सब है कि बद्रीनाथ में केवल 500 तीर्थ यात्रियों अथवा पर्यटकों के ठहरने की व्यवस्था है जबकि तीर्थ यात्रा के दिनों में वहाँ प्रति दिन 1000 व्यक्ति जाते हैं ;

(ख) क्या इस वर्ष तीर्थ-यात्रा काल में वहाँ खुले वातावरण में रहने के कारण पांच व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हो गई ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि ऋषिकेश में परिवहन का पर्याप्त व्यवस्था न होने के कारण इस तीर्थ-यात्रा काल में लगभग 15,000 तीर्थ यात्रियों को बड़ी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ा है ; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो ऐसी स्थिति पैदा होने देने के उत्तरदायी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है तथा यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिये कि भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाएँ न होने पायें, क्या उपाय किये गये हैं ?

गृह-कार्य मंत्री (श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण) :

(क) यह रिपोर्ट मिली है कि बद्रीनाथ में लगभग एक हजार यात्री ठहर सकते हैं । फिर भी इस वर्ष इस मंदिर में आए हुए यात्रियों की अभूतपूर्व भीड़ के कारण स्थान की बहुत कमी पड़ गई ।

(ख) इस वर्ष यात्रा के दौरान सर्दी लगने के कारण किसी व्यक्ति के मरने की कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है ।

(ग) और (घ). ऐसा अनुमान है कि इस वर्ष यात्रा की अवधि के दौरान ऋषिकेश में लगभग 13,000 यात्री रुक गये क्योंकि उस समय परिवहन सम्बन्धी प्रबन्ध केवल 2,000 यात्रियों के लिए प्रतिदिन उपलब्ध थे जबकि प्रतिदिन पहुंचने वाले यात्रियों की संख्या 4,000 होने का अनुमान है । उत्तर प्रदेश के परिवहन आयुक्त ने ऋषिकेश जाकर और बसों की