

PURCHASE OF SHIPS FROM FOREIGN SHIPYARDS

*404. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to buy ships from foreign shipyards worth about Rs. 70 crores to replenish our coastal fleet;

(b) whether any representations have been received against this move from the local ship builders and whether chances exist in the country for developing a large shipyard in the private sector; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government to assess the indigenous potentialities to build at least a part of the number of ships proposed to be bought from outside agencies?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO):

(a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the report recently submitted by a Study Group of the National Shipping Board which examined the problems of the coastal shipping industry and indicated a programme of acquisition of 23 vessels of 14,000 DWT each at a total estimated cost of about 70 crores, spread over a period of 12 years. The National Shipping Board has not yet considered the report. The question of Government considering the proposals will arise only after the comments of the National Shipping Board have been received.

(b) and (c). While no representations have been received from the local builders, the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. is already formulating proposals for expanding its production capacity during the Fourth Plan period. The existing and potential capacities of the other yards in the public and private sectors are also being assessed in connection with the formulation of the Fourth Five Year Plan. After this has been done and proposals included in the Fourth Plan, it will be possible to say how many ships for the coastal fleet could be built in India.

JUMBO JETS FOR AIR-INDIA

*405. DR. RANEN SEN:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to buy two supersonic aircrafts for Air-India in addition to two Jumbo jets has been dropped; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) While Air-India have not yet placed a firm order for Supersonic aircraft, they are holding delivery positions for two U.S. SSTs and two Concorde.

(b) Does not arise.

HIPPIES IN DELHI

*406. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Hippies in Delhi are doing illegal trade in foreign currencies; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The connotation of the term 'Hippies' is not known. If it is taken to connote vagrant foreign nationals, who do not conform to the normally accepted standards of dress etc., it may be stated that some persons of this kind have been found to have indulged in illegal transaction in foreign exchange.

(b) The Enforcement agencies of the Government continue to be vigilant and as and when any case of contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act comes to their notice suitable action under the law is taken.

ARRESTS DURING KUTCH MOVEMENT

*407. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for courting Satyagrah against Kutch Award; and

(b) whether Government have received any complaints of maltreatment of the Satyagrahis?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) 1,946 persons were arrested in Gujarat and 896 persons were arrested in Delhi for defying