

†[THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) It is a fact that Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. has been running into losses continuously since its inception. The loss for the year 1978-79 cannot obviously be compared with loss in a single month viz. of "last June". The loss suffered by CIWTC in 1978-79 (Rs. 647.84 lakhs) was, however, slightly more than those suffered in 1977-78 (Rs. 647.79 lakhs).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for losses suffered by CIWTC are as under:—

- (i) Vessels of the Corporation are very old, which involved heavy expenditure on repairs, long turn-round period frequent breakdowns and have high manning scales.
- (ii) The capacity of the vessels with the Corporation is inadequate to operate river services on economically viable scale.
- (iii) The Corporation has been incurring heavy losses on construction of vessels for which orders were taken in the past without incorporating suitable escalation clause and without regard to the capacity of the Dockyard to complete them within stipulated delivery schedule.
- (iv) Low productivity in Rajabagan Dockyard leading to higher cost of production. Some of the machinery at the Dockyard is also outmoded and some balancing facilities are lacking for optimum utilisation of existing facilities.
- (v) There is excessive manpower in Rajabagan Dockyard as compared to the requirement of orders in hand.

†[ ] English translation.

(vi) Frequent Power failure in the Dockyard have also been resulting in loss of manhours.]

#### Under-utilized capacity of major ports

1261. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of major ports are suffering because of under-utilization of their capacity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this under-utilization is due to lack of modern equipment and other facilities; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the conditions at these ports with a view to increasing their ship-handling capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) to (c). Whenever there is under-utilization of capacity of a port it is primarily on account of inadequacy of traffic. In the case of iron ore, due to marked conditions, the capacities of some of our major ports are not fully utilized. Provisions of proper equipment and other facilities could lead to better utilization of a port's capacity. Accordingly, wherever necessary steps are being taken for acquiring cargo and container handling equipment. It may be added that at present 7 out of 10 major ports are handling traffic in respect of cargos other than POL and iron ore beyond their capacities.

#### Conditions for workers going abroad

1262. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA :

SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme prescribing conditions for workers who accept jobs in foreign countries; and