

Cancellation of Interview for Allotment of Fruit Juice Contracts

*80. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to Starred Question No. 265 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1979 and state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Railway Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi had called for interview the applicants for the allotment of fruit juice contracts at new Delhi station in May 1979 and later on cancelled the interview calls;

(b) what were the reasons for cancellation of the interviews and by when these are likely to be called again;

(c) whether his Ministry has directed the Divisional Railway Manager to give priority and reference to the cooperatives as per the Government's policy decision; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) The date of the interview was fixed on 30-5-79. One of the members of the Screening Committee was unable to attend on that date and as such interview was postponed. The interview was finally held on 22-1-80.

(c) and (d) As per extant orders, Cooperative Societies are given preference in allotment of catering/vending contracts at Railway stations. First priority is given to Scheduled Caste/Tribe persons and the Cooperative Societies come next. Contracts upto 1/2 a unit, however, are allotted only to Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates.

Expansion of shipping tonnage

95. SHRI S. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND

TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Shipping tonnage is at present able to carry on only 50 per cent of the foreign trade;

(b) if not, what is the percentage of foreign trade that the Indian shipping tonnage at present carries; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to expand its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) According to the available information, Indian ships carried about 37 per cent of overseas trade in 1978-79.

(c) Expansion of Indian Shipping has been a continuing process and acquisition of additional tonnage is governed by financial allocations made in the various Five Year Plans. Steps have also been taken to ensure maximum use of Indian tonnage for Indian trade. Some of them are as follows:—

(i) Government has set up a Shipping Co-ordination Committee for channelising Government cargoes, project cargoes etc. through Indian ships wherever such ships are available in the required position at or near the concerned foreign ports.

(ii) Govt. have been advising the Indian shipowners to render personalised service to Indian exporters and importers. Govt. have also been persuading the shippers through various media and forums like All India Shippers' Council and its regional associations to patronise Indian vessels.

(iii) A new scheme has been evolved in 1977 for ship acquisition from abroad. This scheme is known by the name SAFAUNS (Ship Acquisitions from Abroad under New Scheme) under which an amount of Rs. 500 crores has been earmarked from out of foreign exchange reserves of the country for acquiring ships from abroad.