

(iii) High incidence of Income Tax for Indian officers sailing on Indian ships.

(d) Norwegians control 1400 vessels totalling 48 million DWT, which is 6 times more than the Indian owned tonnage. The Norwegian controlled fleet represents 10% of the World's total merchant fleet making Norway one of the largest shipping nations in the world. Its position is relatively stronger in respect of specialised vessels as Norwegian companies control approximately, 23% of world's cruise vessels, 19% each of world's gas and chemical tankers and 10.50% of crude oil tankers. As on February, 2001, out of total of 61330 seafarers working on Norwegian controlled vessels more than 50% were foreign seafarers. After Philippines, India is the 2nd largest supplier to the merchant fleet of Norway. The MoU signed between Norwegian Ship Owners Association and the Indian Maritime Fraternity would provide better opportunities for Indian seafarers on Norwegian vessels, establish management level structure on board training programme and implementation of cadet training as well as training of ratings to stimulate the future growth of competent Indian Officers, India has created sufficient training infrastructure and large number of candidates are completing pre-sea training every year. However, suitable on board training slots are not available. Norway, a large ship owning country, would increase its quota on employing Indian seafarers on its vessels for on-board training.

### **Repairing of National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

1041. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy decision has been taken for the construction and repair of the damaged and ruined National Highways in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed for the construction/repair of the said National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c)

Development, construction and repair of National Highways in the country including in Tamil Nadu is a continuous process. These works are taken up on the basis of the road conditions, traffic, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

### **Tsunami's effect on Sethu Samudram Yojana**

†1042. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any shift in the 'Sethu Samudram Yojana' has been made owing to Tsunami tragedy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Upgradation of NH-28**

1043. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has approved a loan to upgrade the stretch of National Highway No. 28;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and other details of the projects under the National Highway Development Programme supported by World Bank Loan; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions fixed with World Bank with regard to above mentioned project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The World Bank has agreed in principle to approve a loan for an amount of US\$ 620.00 million to the Government of India for upgrading the stretch of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.