

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) For Pioneer Class ships, at present being constructed at Hindustan Shipyard, average imported material content is 34 per cent of the total cost of a ship and not 60 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indigenous manufacture of some of the main items of equipment like the Main Engine, Diesel Generating sets, electronics communication equipment etc. has been taken up. The Steel Plants are also gearing up for supply of additional quantity of steel of shipbuilding quantity. With these developments, it may be possible to reduce substantially the imported component as a proportion of the cost of a ship.

Move by U.S.A. for treaty with other Nations for checking bribery by multinational corporations

626. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has seen reports to the effect that U.S.A. wants to have treaty with other nations to put an end to the bribe taking on the part of its multinational corporations in the wake of Lockheed scandal ;

(b) whether Government have received any communication from the Government of U.S.A. in this connection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Government have seen news reports to the effect that the USA intends to work for some multi-lateral agreement under U.N. auspices. No formal communication has, however, been received as yet from the U.S. Government.

Functioning of enquiry and complaint services of the Delhi telephones

627. PROF RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the enquiry and complaint services of the Delhi telephones do not respond for a long time;

(b) whether the staff manning the enquiry and complaint services do not show courtesy to the customers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The staff manning the Enquiry and Complaint Services in the Delhi Telephones generally respond quickly to the calls made to them and also show courtesy to the calling party. There is a system of continuously making test calls from various exchanges to all Special Services including Enquiry and Complaint Services to assess the promptness and the manner in which the calls are answered. The results are reviewed and remedial action is taken wherever called for. In order to cope up with the increase of traffic, the operating positions for directory enquiry service have been increased from 38 to 46 recently.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Annual report (1974-75) and Accounts of the Shipping Development Fund chin and related papers.

II. Annual report (1973-74) and accounts of the Shipping Development Fund Committee and related papers.

12 Noon

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section