

Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project at Cochin

*117. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN :
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :
SHRI V. VISWANATHA
MENON :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum exceeding Rs. 2 crores has already been spent for the Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project at Cochin port;

(b) whether cost estimates are likely to increase substantially due to delay on the part of the Central Government in according expenditure sanction for the project; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to expedite financial sanctions for the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI) : (a) The Cochin Port has so far spent Rs. 143 lakhs for the Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project.

(b) The increase in cost estimates of the Project will depend on the trend of prices prevailing in future years.

(c) The detailed project report prepared by the Consultants is under consideration in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Ribats built by Indians in Saudi Arabia

*118. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN :
SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF :
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :
SHRI QASIM ALI ABID :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 385 given in Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1974 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Ribats set up by the Indians in Saudi

Arabia are now in the possession of Saudi Arabian caretakers, who let out accommodation in those Ribats and utilise the amount collected for their own purpose; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Saudi Arabian Government to ascertain the number of such Ribats and ensure that they are utilised for the purpose for which they were originally constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The existence of many Ribats, whether they are recognised as Ribats under Indian and Saudi law and whether they may have been endowed or set up by Muslims of India, has been the subject of detailed investigations involving the tracing of old records and correspondence, exchanges of information with the Saudi Arabian authorities and other concerned organisations. Under Saudi Arabian law, the Nazirs (Managers) should be Saudi nationals. The primary responsibility for the proper running of such Ribats rests with the heirs of the Indian endowers and their Nazirs in Saudi Arabia. Government for its part seeks to persuade the heirs to ensure the administrative efficiency of these institutions and encourages them to take an active interest in maintaining and utilising them for the purpose they were originally created, in cooperation of the Saudi authorities.

Indo-U.K. relations

*119. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
SHRI V. VISHWANATHA
MENON :
SHRI J. S. ANAND :
SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :
SHRI B. D. BARMAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any exchanges of letters between the Government of India and the British Government over India's explosion of nuclear device on May 18, 1974 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?