

(a) The 4th Plan envisages a target of 40 lakhs GRT out of which 35 lakhs GRT is to be operative and 5 lakhs GRT to be firmly on order. Till now, we have achieved an operative tonnage of 25.09 lakhs GRT with another 14.42 lakhs GRT firmly on order. Excluding the scrapping of overaged ships of 2.24 lakhs GRT, orders for only 2.73 lakhs GRT have to be placed to reach the 4th Plan target of a total of 40 lakhs GRT. The indications are that this will be achieved. However, the operative tonnage at the end of the 4th Plan may be about 28.62 lakhs GRT.

(b) Most of the Shipyards in the World are already booked and fresh orders on these shipyards can only be for deliveries after 4th Plan period;

(c) Government have no proposal under consideration to acquire second-hand ships. There is no bar to shipping companies requiring second-hand ships provided the proposals are in consonance with our requirements and are economically beneficial to the country from the foreign exchange angle.

KERALA PORTS LANDING AND SHIPPING FEES BILL

*283. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have sought approval of the Central Government for the legislation of the Kerala Ports Landing and Shipping Fees Bill; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approval to the Bill has been conveyed subject to deletion of clause

3(1)(d) and amending clause 3 or making a separate clause specifying how the levies will be utilized. Certain other suggestions have also been conveyed for the consideration of the State Government.

URBAN HOUSING SCHEME

*284. SHRI K. S. MALLE GOWDA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the amounts of money provided and spent by the Centre and States for rural housing in each of the three first Five Year Plans;

(b) the number of rural houses completed (including the houses for the scheduled castes and tribals) in each of the three Plans with Central and State Assistance; and

(c) the number of urban housing units completed in each of the three plans with the loans and other financial assistance of the Centre, States and the L. I. C. ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING, HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) The Village Housing Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Works and Housing was introduced during the Second Plan as a centrally sponsored scheme. Against an outlay of Rs. 4.85 crores, Rs. 3.69 crores was actually spent and 5,400 houses were completed. The scheme was transferred to the State Sector in the 3rd Plan when Rs. 13.52 crores were provided by the Centre and the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Against this, Rs. 4.95 crores were actually drawn and utilised by the State Governments and about 27,000 houses were completed. The total number of houses completed under the scheme as mentioned above includes also those which

are for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Tribals.

The total number of housing units completed in the urban areas under various Social Housing Schemes, introduced by the Ministry of Works and Housing, under each of the three Plans, both in the Centrally sponsored and the State Sectors, was as follows :

1st Plan	...	51,100 houses
2nd Plan	...	1,39,600 houses
3rd Plan	...	1,58,700 houses
TOTAL	...	3,49,400 houses

*285. [Transferred to the 6th April, 1972.]

PALAMAU DISTRICT AS BACKWARD REGION

*286. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that West Germany has selected the District of Palamau as most backward in eastern India under their development programme; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred by West Germany on the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) The question of taking up a multi-purpose agricultural development programme in Chhotanagpur region of Bihar State has been under discussions with the West German Government. Palamau has not been selected so far. In fact final views of German Government are not known.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

FCI AS A SELLING AGENCY or FOODGRAINS

*287. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is having any proposal to function as a selling agency of foodgrains in addition to its function as a procurement agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) The Food Corporation of India continues to function as distributing and selling agency.

(b) The details are as under :—

(i) Sale of wheat, rice and coarse-grains to State Governments for distribution through fair price shops.

(ii) Sale of wheat to roller flour mills.

(iii) Open market sale of wheat and coarsegrains at important market centres and depots.

(c) Does not arise.

WATER TRANSPORT BETWEEN ASSAM AND CALCUTTA *via* BANGLA DESH

*288. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under their consideration any scheme for resumption of water transport between Assam and Calcutta *via* Bangla Desh in the immediate future;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be resumed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, Sir; the Government propose to start inland water transport service between Assam and Calcutta *via* Bangla Desh.