

CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF BULK-CARRIERS OF 15,000 D.W.T.

313. **SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK:** Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT** be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of the contracts recently entered into with the Rumanian Shipyards for the supply of ten bulk carriers of 15,000 D.W.T. each;

(b) the reasons for which the contracts have been entered into with the Rumanian Shipyards; and

(c) the time by when the delivery of the bulk-carriers is expected?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The contracts were not concluded recently but in 1969. The Indian shipowners who have contracted to purchase the ships are:—

Mogal Line	5 ships
Shipping Corporation	4 ships
Chowgule Steamships	1 ship

Each ship costs Rs. 1.37 crores. 15 per cent of the price is payable upto delivery and the remaining 85 per cent together with interest at 2.5 per cent per annum is payable in ten annual instalments commencing one year after delivery of each ship.

(b) It is not as if offers were available from several foreign shipyards and preference was given to the Rumanian shipyard. Ships of this size and type were required to meet the country's requirements and since Rumania offered these ships on rupee payment basis without involving any foreign exchange outgo, the proposal was approved by Government.

(c) The schedule delivery of the 10 bulk-carriers is as shown below:—

1972	1
1973	3
1974	3
1975	3
TOTAL	10

PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

314. **SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:** Will the Minister of **EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE** be pleased to State:

(a) what is the progress achieved so far in regard to the publication of district gazetteers; how many of them have been published so far, how many are awaiting publication and how many still remain to be prepared; and

(b) whether any arrangements have been made for the periodical revision of the gazetteers, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): (a) Gazetteers of 174 Districts have been completed, of which 91 have been published and 83 are awaiting publication. Gazetteers of 163 Districts are yet to be completed.

(b) No Sir. The question will be taken up after the scheme is completed in all the States.

INDIAN PUBLISHERS' VISIT TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

315. **SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:** Will the Minister of **EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seven member team of Indian publishers visited African countries to familiarise itself with the conditions of education and book trade there;

(b) if so, how many countries they have visited; and

(c) whether they have submitted any report to Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY): (a) A six member Team went, for at the last minute one of the members was unable to go.

(b) Four, namely, Mauritius, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya.

(c) The Delegation has just returned to India and a report from them is awaited.

H. V. R. IENGAR'S STATEMENT ON INFLATIONARY TREND

316. **SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement by the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shri H. V. R. Iengar made in Bombay on the 11th February 1971, and published in the Times of India on February 12, 1971 to the effect that India would have to face the unpleasant prospect of further devaluation of the rupee if the present inflationary situation continued; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.