to be decided upon the terms and conditions on which foreign credit facilities are available from various countries. It is also not possible to lay down standard designs of ships of all shipowners to follow because the technical developments are taking place very fast and the requirements of different traces vary. Our requirements, where necessary will require to be adapted also to the type of ships that may be available or accepted on order with foreign ship-yards.

INCREASE IN ILLITERACY

785. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI J. P. YADAV:
SHRI SRI KANT MISHRA:
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI PREM MANOHAR:
SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of illiterates in the country have increased from 298 million to 349 million in 1969;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the subject was discussed at the 35th session of the Educational Advisory Board held during May, 1970.

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Board and the decisions taken by Government thereon: and

(e) the details of various other steps Government propose to take to liquidate illiteracy in the country in the shortest possible time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. A. K. KISKU): (a) to (e). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth of literacy in India is slow, less than 1 per cent per year. The population is increasing more rapidly, at more than 2 per cent per year. As a consequence, although the percentage of literacy is increasing from year to year, the number of illiterates is also increasing.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The responsibility for the eradication of illiteracy rests upon the State Governments. The Government of India can at best stimulate action in this field through research, pilot projects and clearing house functions. The major Central or Centrally Sponsored programmes included in the 4th Five Year Plan are (i) Farmers' Education and Functional Literacy Projects; (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Adult Education; (iii) The National Board of Adult Education; and (iv) Pilot Projects for spread of Literacy.

A.R.C. REPORT ON CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

786. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:
DR. SALIG RAM:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question No 75 given in the Rajya Sabha on April, 29 1970 and state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the ARC report on the Centre State Relations; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The report is still under examination.

INCREASE IN SHIPPING FREIGHT

787. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI .
SHRI PREM MANOHAR :
SHRI J. P. YADAV :

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

(a) the number of times shipping freight between India and the countries of Europe were increased since June, 1966 together with the amount and the reasons for the increase in each case;

(b) its effect on the trade and shipping of India; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India and the All India Shippers' Council in regard thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) The requisite information is given below :—

Date	Quantum of increase	Reasons for increase
15-9-1966	7·5%	Increase in the cost of operation.
15-7-1970	12·5%	Increase in the cost of operation.

(b) While generally increase in Shipping freight rates would tend to reduce the competitiveness of our export products, shipping freight is only one of the several factors which influence the foreign trade of the country. It is therefore, difficult to isolate the effect of a single factor on the rise and fall in trade. However, the general effect of the increase in freight rates on Indian Shipping will be beneficial because the earnings of Indian shipping companies who are members of the Conference will also increase.

(c) As a result of pressures brought by the All India Shipper's Council and other Shippers organisations and the Government of India, the Conference was persuaded to bring down the quantum of increase in July, 1970 from 15% as originally proposed to 12.5% and the Suez surcharge from 15% to 13.5% and also to give special treatment to certain specific sensitive commodities of export.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR EX-CHIEF MINISTER AND EX-DY. CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

788. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether security arrangements have been made for the ex-Chief Minister and ex-Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the daily amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of West Bengal, between April to July 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to give the details of the security arrangements or of the expenditure incurred on the same.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY IAS OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION IN WEST BENGAL

789. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the IAS Officers' Association in West Bengal met in April-May 1970 at Calcutta and passed a resolution criticising Shri Dhawan, Governor of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution;

(c) whether the Governor of West Bengal has given his views about this resolution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.