

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO) : A sum of Rupees one crore has been provided in the current year's budget for payment of grants to the National Committee for the Gandhi Centenary.

Provision of relief in drought affected areas is the responsibility of State Governments. The Government of India have, however, provided Rs. 50 crores *viz.*, Rs. 35 crores under loans and Rs. 15 crores under grants, in the budget for the current year for assistance to State Governments towards relief expenditure on account of various natural calamities like floods, drought, earthquake etc.]

INCREASE OF SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES

•379. SHRI YELLA REDDY : SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

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

(a) whether the U. S. Atlantic-India Conference Lines has unilaterally decided to raise the shipping freight rates on all cargoes by 12 per cent with effect from August next ;

(b) whether the same Conference Lines had raised the freight rates by 7 per cent last year ;

(c) whether such frequent rise in freight rates will adversely affect India's foreign trade ; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government against such arbitrary increase in freight rates ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) The India-Pakhtan -Ceylon and Burma/U.S.A. Outward Freight Conference which handles India's imports from the Atlantic coast of U.S.A. had notified a general increase of 12% in freight rates to be effective from 1-8-1969.

(b) This Conference has effected an increase of 7% from January 1969.

(c) Shipping freight rate is only one of 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 or fall in the trade.

[] English translation.

(d) Government is pressing all the Conferences operating in India's foreign trade to agree to prior consultation with shippers before imposing any general freight increases. In the present case, the Conference has, as a result of discussions with the representatives of the Government of India and the All India Shippers' Council, reduced the quantum of increase from 12% to 5% and has also put off the effective date from 1-8-1969 to 1-10-1969.

OFFICERS OF VISAKHAPATNAM PORT

♦380. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers of the Visakhapatnam Port who are receiving remuneration from Rubi and Co. for doing ship-surveying work ;

(b) whether the said officers are allowing the said company to use the port launches, boats and other equipments for survey work without collecting any hire charges ; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to instruct the said officers to disassociate themselves from the said company ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) Four.

(b) No, Madam. Port launches, boats and other equipment are not exclusively used for survey work- Orders have also been issued by the Port Trust that port launches and other survey materials should not be used for conducting surveys without recovery of hire charges.

(c) No, Madam. The work does not interfere with their normal duties and is undertaken during their spare time.

SHRI JAVA PRAKASH NARAYAN'S VIEWS ABOUT NAXALITES

♦381. SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY : SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report published in the 'Times of India' dated June 9, 1969 (Delhi Edition) to the effect that Shri

Jaya Prakash Narayan in his inaugural address to the National Conference of Voluntary Agencies at the Gandhi Peace Foundation in New Delhi on June 8, 1969 said that he sympathised with Naxalites because "they are doing something for the people" and also that "if I am convinced that there is no deliverance of the people except through violence, I will take to violence" ; and

(b) if so, what do government propose to do to stop such open support to Naxa-lites and violence by persons like Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan ?

THE MRnSTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The major theme of the speech of Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan was a powerful plea for non-violent social revolution. He argued that basically violence does not change society in a fundamental way.

♦38a. [Transferred to the ith August, 1969]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

♦383. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations made by the Transport Development Council regarding the Central Road Fund ;

(b) if so, whether Government ha^s accepted those recommendations ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. RAGHU-RAMIAH) : (a) to (c) The recommendations made by the Transport Development Council regarding the Central Road Fund are under consideration of Government and a final decision in the matter is yet to be arrived at.

NEWS PROCESS OF INDIGENOUSLY MANUFACTURING STAINLESS STEEL

847. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 748 given in the Rajya Sabha on May 14, 1969 and State :

(a) whether the properties of the indigenous Stainless Steel (Indian Patent Specification No. 91020) developed by a non-C.S.I.R. Scientist, have since been examined to assess its merits for practical exploitation ;

(b) if so, the results of the tests ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in examining the *new* process indigenously developed which, it is reported, has already own international acclaim but has not even yet been considered by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) normally evaluates inventions developed by C.S.I.R. Scientists and inventions referred to it by the Inventions Promotion Board. The National Metallurgical Laboratory of the C.S.I.R. would be happy to assist in assessing the merits of the invention if the material and related data are supplied to the Laboratory.

FOOD SERVED IN I. A. C. PLANES

848. SHRI T. SIDDALINGAYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints were received about the bad food served in the I. A. C. planes ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the catering arrangements ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) There have been some complaints about the food served on Indian Airlines flights. Constant efforts are made to improve the quality of the food and to provide new dishes to cater to different tastes. Officer-in-Charge of catering establishment! have been trained in catering institutes, while cook and other staff are also given adequate training.

RURAL EDUCATION

849. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee appointed by the National Council for Rural Higher Education to review the progress of the