

IV(ni Parliament to go to the spot with officers deputed by the Home Minister, so as to show that Parliament is concerned with what has happened. It will be a gesture of humanity on the part of Parliament to do this.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: If Members of Parliament want to go on their own, it is a different matter but I will not suggest a team of Members going. When investigation is going on there, I do not think it will be proper but as far as the concern of Parliament is concerned, it was exactly for that very purpose that I accepted this question, and I have repeated it again and again.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### DREDGERS AT COCHIN PORT

\*691. SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPI-DAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of dredgers which are available at the Cochin Port and how old they are and whether sufficient dredging is being carried out there to enable the ships to moor ashore; and

(b) whether it is a fact that enough facilities for the shipping traffic are not available there?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO): (a) There are at present three dredgers at Cochin Port viz. Suction dredger 'Lord Willingdon', the Bucket dredger 'Lady Willingdon' and Suction dredger 'Gunga' recently acquired by the Cochin Port authorities from the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The dredgers were built in 1926, 1937 and 1923 respectively. Subject to the limitations of the capacity of the dredging fleet, the Cochin Port authorities have been carrying out the maximum possible amount of dredging in the approach channel and the berths,

(1.) The Cochin Port authorities, for some time past have been unable to provide a draft of 30 ft. to ships, which they are normally expected to provide, as they had been unable to undertake the requisite dredging in the channel and the berths on account of the insufficiency of their dredging fleet. Remedial measures are under way. The dredger 'Lady Willingdon' was worked on a double shift of 12 hours each for dredging the inner channel for four months from 4-9-1967. A second hand dredger 'Gunga' has recently been acquired by the Cochin Port authorities from the Calcutta Port Commissioners. Tenders have been received for the acquisition of a new suction dredger and a grab hopper dredger and are under scrutiny by the Port Trust. Specifications for a new bucket dredger are being drawn up by the Port Trust and in the meantime, the proposal is being processed for financial sanction. It is hoped that, with the operation of dredger 'Gunga' and the proposed acquisition of new dredging craft, the port authorities will be able to meet their dredging commitments and overcome the problem of siltation which has been responsible for the inadequacy of facilities for the Shipping Traffic.

#### SELECTION OF CANDIDATES BY INDIAN AIRLINES TO TOUR FOREIGN CITIES

\*693. SHRI B. V. ABDULLAH KOYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that candidates have been selected by the Indian Airlines to tour foreign cities like Washington, Tokyo, Frankfurt etc. for attracting to India foreign tourists and projecting the image of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been introduced with the approval of the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR KARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.