

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken by Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V.K.R.V. RAO) : (a) The dredger 'Kandla' has been working satisfactorily. The Radar also is working satisfactorily excepting for maintenance faults arising out of normal wear and tear of the components, which require regular replacements involving foreign exchange, which take time to arrange.

(b) and (c) At the old port, the old R.C.C. jetty has been functioning satisfactorily as an oil jetty and oil tankers are berthed and oil pumped regularly from that jetty. A new oil jetty was built in October 1955 at a cost of Rs. 18.80 lakhs. The first tanker was berthed at that jetty satisfactorily on the 30th November 1955. On the 17th December 1955, the second tanker broke adrift about two hours after berthing. The alignment of the jetty was found to be defective. On the basis of recommendations made by the Central Water and Power Research Station at Poona, after carrying out experiments and investigations, Government sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 15.1 lakhs for modifications to the jetty in December 1965. Tenders are being invited for the work.

The gantry crane at the Bunder Basin is intended to handle loads between 10 tons and 60 tons. The cost of the crane was Rs. 1.21 lakhs. It is being used as and when required. On several occasions, it has been used for lifting packages. Recently, heavy packages exceeding ten tons imported for the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project were handled by the crane.

CHIEF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENT STATES

353. SHRI SHANTILAL KOTHARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to call a conference of Chief Ministers of States where non-Congress Governments are in power to discuss Centre-State relationship ;

(b) if so, whether any move has been made in this direction ; and

(c) what is the response of the concerned Chief Ministers to the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MILK POWDER WASTAGE

354. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

SHRI ARAVINDAKSHAN KAIMAL :

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 30,000 tons of milk powder gifts from the United States of America for free distribution among the school children have been rotting at the Ayurvedic Pharmacy building at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter ;

(c) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry ; and

(d) the action taken by Government against those responsible for the wastage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (d) About 35 tons of Corn Soy milk (and not milk powder) was received by the Health Department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi through UNICEF for free distribution amongst mothers and children, through Maternity and Child Health Centres and not amongst school children. The milk was stored at the Maternity and Child Welfare Stores, Nigambodh Ghat, Delhi, where some of it got infected with weevils. Necessary action was taken, in consultation with UNICEF authorities, to sieve and distribute the milk.