

on 22nd May, 1967, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 27. No other State has declared any area as a famine area since 1964.

LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

•14. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vessel which was purchased by the Lighthouses and Lightships Department for laying of buoys is lying idle since its purchase in 1964;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expenditure that has been incurred on its purchase and maintenance so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) to (c) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Lighthouse tender m.v. "Sagardeep" was built in Yugoslavia and was brought to Calcutta in February 1964. The vessel was got built specially for tending lighthouses and Hghtbuoys etc. and also laying Hghtbuoys in Indian waters. The only long spell of period during which the vessel remained idle was from May 1964 to March 1965. The period from May 1964 to December 1964 was spent in arranging and carrying out certain repairs covered by the shipbuilders guarantee and thereafter the ship could not go out till 2nd April, 1965 due to unavoidable difficulties in finding, officers and crew to man her. From April 1965 onwards, she has been employed regularly except during the monsoons

and during periodical dry docking and repairs.

(c) The vessel was acquired at a cost of Rs. 1.56 crores and an expenditure of Rs. 18.44 lakhs has been incurred on her operation and maintenance during the period from February 1964 to 31st March, 1967.

BORDER ROADS AND TUBEWELLS IN RAJASTHAN

•15. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of border roads and sinking of tubewells in Rajasthan is being slowed down;

(b) the total amount required for the whole scheme and the amount spent from year to year and when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) whether the work is progressing according to schedule and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) Presumably, the Member is referring to the construction of some strategic roads and tubewells, required for the construction of those roads, in Rajasthan. The road requirements were reviewed from time to time and they have been reviewed recently by the Ministry of Defence. In view of the current financial stringency, it is now proposed to concentrate on the expeditious completion of some top-priority roads in the State and either discontinue or slow down work on the other low-priority roads.

(b) and (c) The total amount required for the top priority works is estimated to be Rs. 17.06 crores. Of this estimated amount, a sum of Rs. 5.29 crores was spent upto 31st March, 1967; and a sum of Rs. 5.80 crores is