

FOREIGN CREDIT FOR ACQUIRING COASTAL SHIPS

*343. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in order to meet the shortage of coastal shipping for the movement of coal from one part of the country to the other, the Government of India are exploring possibilities of obtaining some foreign credit exclusively for acquiring coastal ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR). The possibility of obtaining foreign credit from the World Bank and the International Development Association for acquisition of coastal vessels has been examined. It has, however, been found that there are no prospects of getting any assistance from these sources for coastal ships.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, the extent of shortage of coastal shipping in the country at the present moment and whether there are any attempts being made to get over the trouble either by acquiring ships or by building ships?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question of shortage of coastal shipping arose in one particular connection and that was the transportation of 2 million tons of coal, instead of one million tons, from Calcutta to ports on the East and West Coast. In that context I would say that it has been estimated that we require about 22 ships more in order to discharge our responsibilities fully in this behalf.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि रोड के द्वारा भी इसका ट्रांसपोर्ट किया जा सके, इस पामिबिलिटी का एग्जामिन किया गया है?

श्री राज बहादुर : इससे यह सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है । वैसे रोड के द्वारा इतनी दूर तक ले जाने में बहुत खर्चा होगा ।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : अगर कोई मल्सीडीज पार्टीज को देकर कुछ गवर्नमेंट बेयर करे, तो इस बात को एग्जामिन किया गया है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : एग्जामिन करने की सभावना यहां नहीं प्रतीत होती । अगर कलकत्ता और उसके आस पास में कोल को रोड के द्वारा सौराष्ट्र में ले जाया जाय तो उससे इतना जबरदस्त खर्चा होगा कि कोल का ले जाना ही मुश्किल हो जायगा ।

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Recently, we have heard of one Jayanti Shipping Company functioning. May I know, Sir, whether that Company is going to be entrusted with the task of procuring extra ships that are required for this purpose?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Jayanti Shipping Company has made a request that they may be allowed to buy a certain number of ships for the coastal trade as well. They have not asked for any assistance from us for buying them. We have told them that if, without our having to give any loans or foreign exchange etc., they could get coastal ships, we would consider that.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, if it is true that as reported very recently, ships of the value of about Rs. 2 crores have already been acquired by the Jayanti Shipping Company for this purpose?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They have not been acquired. In fact, ships of the value of Rs. 1.5 crores are proposed to be acquired by them and they are proceeding with their negotiations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I think a Cabinet Sub-Committee was appointed

ed in 1948 to make certain recommendations on the question of shipping, both coastal and overseas shipping. In view of their recommendations, may I know, Sir, why the Government should not have found it possible to have 100 per cent. coastal shipping under its control and meet the needs of this particular branch of shipping?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not quite clear to which Committee the hon. Member is referring. In fact, the demand was that the entire coastal shipping should be in Indian hands. It should not be in foreign hands. That decision was taken and the coastal trade is now reserved for our own Indian shipping companies. Of course, off and on they take ships on charter.

(Shri Bhupesh Gupta rose.)

SHRI A. D. MANI: Order, order. What would be . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mani is usurping the functions of the Chair.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I suggest, Sir, that when you are in the Chair, I would not like any Member, whoever he may be, to say, "Order, order". It is against the decorum of the House. This is what I want to bring to your notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I have said.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Was it not an appeal for order?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not mind yielding to independent Members because they have nobody else to look to.

SHRI A. D. MANI: What would be the foreign exchange component in regard to the 22 ships which the Jayanti Shipping Company is proposing to acquire?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The Jayanti Shipping Company is expected to make the payment in foreign exchange. To make up its paid-up capital, the entire Rs. 1.5 crores will be foreign exchange and out of the foreign exchange, which we have not provided for, they might get these ships for coastal trade.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF GOODS TRAFFIC PAID AT BANGALORE RAILWAY STATION

*344. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of claims paid during the financial year 1960-61 in respect of goods traffic on Bangalore City Railway Station; and

(b) how does it compare with the claims of previous year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Rs. 1,80,340.

(b) The amount paid during 1960-61 was Rs. 47,296 more than that paid during 1959-60.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Evidently the losses on account of claims have been increasing in the Bangalore City Railway Station. May I know the reasons for this increase and whether any steps are being taken to arrest the pilferage, etc., that is taking place? Is it due to pilferage that these claims are increasing in the Bangalore City Station?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The thefts might have been committed when the trains were on the move on their way to Bangalore. The reasons for the increase in claims can be more traffic and higher prices and greater clearance of old claims. We made a concentrated drive to clear up the old claims also.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know whether any cases of theft