

Decca Navigator Chains on the East and West Coasts of India is not envisaged under the Colombo Plan. The entire expenditure on the scheme is being borne by the Government of India, except for some technical assistance that is being provided by the Government of the United Kingdom under the Colombo Plan.

2. The installation of aerial masts and civil engineering works at all the four Decca Navigator Stations on the West Coast are nearing completion and similar works on the East Coast are in progress. Five experts from the Decca Navigator Company are being obtained to undertake the installation of power-supply and electronic equipment. Geodetic surveys are also being carried out to determine the accurate position of the stations for the preparation of special charts for use by mariners.

LUSHINGTON SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE

294. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to pages 44-45 of the report of the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Deptt. of Transport) for 1959-60 and state:

(a) what progress has been made in the construction of Lushington Shoal Lighthouse; and

(b) what steps have been taken to procure a light vessel and a light buoy for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) The tenders received from manufacturers abroad for the interim Scheme are under scrutiny and the procedure to be adopted for the construction of the proposed Lighthouse is under examination.

ENFORCEMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1958

295. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the

reasons why the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 has not yet been fully brought into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): It has not been possible so far to bring the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 into force fully, because it involves the framing of numerous statutory rules, notifications, orders, etc. The drafting of essential rules, etc., has since been completed and the entire Act is expected to be brought into force from 1st January, 1961.

INTRODUCTION OF METRIC SYSTEM ON COMMERCIAL SIDE OF SHIPPING

296. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to introduce metric system on the commercial side of shipping during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The following steps have been taken to introduce metric system on the commercial side of shipping:

1. A notification has been issued bringing into force the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956 in respect of Ports and Shipping with effect from the 1st August, 1960, to the extent indicated below:

(a) Ports in respect of transactions involving the levy: (i) of shipping charges for services rendered and (ii) of Port dues on ships and on goods landed or shipped through the Docks, Jetties, Bunders and inland wharves;

(b) Shipping industry in respect of transactions involving the levy of freight on cargo.

2. The Major Ports have published revised Schedules of charges leviable in respect of transactions mentioned in 1(a) above.