

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether any evidence was recorded by the enquiry committee and if so, will that evidence be also placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If that be the desire, we shall bear that in mind but I think this was a committee of technical experts and to that extent they must have gone into very great details.

**SHIPPING EXPENSES INCURRED BY
GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF
GOVERNMENT CARGO**

*343. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the normal shipping expenses incurred by Government on account of Government Cargo;

(b) how these expenses are shared by the Indian and foreign-owned Shipping Companies; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for diversion of Government cargo from foreign-owned ships to the Indian ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The normal shipping expenses are mainly the freight charges, the handling charges at ports of loading and unloading and the marine insurance premia.

(b) Precise information in this regard is not available.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

*Steps taken to utilise Indian Ships for
Government Cargo*

Indian Purchasing Missions abroad have already got standing instructions for utilising Indian ships to the maximum extent possible for shipment of Government owned and controlled cargoes. Recently, a Shipping Co-ordination Committee has been set up !

with a view to ensuring a closer liaison between the various Ministries and other Organisations of the Government of India on the one hand and Indian Shipping Companies on the other by which the maximum use of available Indian Shipping could be made. As far as is known the Indian Shipping Companies are receiving adequate cargo support at present.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what is the extent of expenses incurred by the Government on account of shipping charges?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Various estimates are put. As I said we don't have exact figures but the non-official figures are from Rs. 150 to Rs. 160 crores, so far as payments to foreign shipping interests are concerned.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the existing tonnage of our Indian Shipping Companies is sufficient to carry the entire cargo on account of Government?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, it comes to about 6 per cent. It may be mentioned in this connection that so far as India-U.S.A. route is concerned, it * is not served by Indian shipping; on the India-U.K. Continent, we are approximately covering as much as 40 per cent, of the cargo moving to and fro on Government account and we know that so far as Canada-South America and others are concerned, we are yet to start our lines.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What steps Government are taking to add to the tonnage of Indian shipping?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a very comprehensive question and we have already indicated the steps that we have been taking in this behalf from time to time.

SHRI B. SHIVARAO: May I ask whether any steps are taken either by my hon. friend's Ministry or the Food Ministry to see that the ships which bring foodgrains into India do not go back on their return voyages either empty or given half-empty?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Recently, we have appointed a committee known as the Shipping Coordination Committee, which is charged with the responsibility of the maximum utilisation of the available shipping space ■ offered by Indian Shipping Companies and also to avoid excess payments of freight to foreign interests.

SHRI P. D. HIMATSINGKA: Is it a fact that very much heavier charges are being paid at the Calcutta Port for handling Government cargo when there are equal opportunities to handle them at much cheaper rates?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not aware of that particular fact. I will have to check up.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what has been the result of the efforts of the Coordination Committee which has been set up?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The result will be that we shall be able to ensure that the Indian ships get the maximum volume of cargo they can carry.

***344. [The questioner (Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2740-42 infra.]**

SANCTION OF GRANTS FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE HOSPITAL AT GHATTAPRABHA IN THE STATE OF MYSORE

♦345. SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants have been sanctioned by Government for the Co-operative Hospital at Ghatta prabha in the State of Mysore; and

(b) if so, what were the objects for which such grants were sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. K. DEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grant naa Deen given for the purchase of operation theatre equipment, laboratory equipment and the installation of an X-ray unit in the Co-operative Hospital.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that large funds including the contribution by the Ministry have been spent over completely on a big building which is yet incomplete and not on any equipment whatsoever?

SHRI S. K. DEY: Not to my knowledge. The details are of course known to State Governments but as far as I know, the villagers around who constitute the membership of the cooperative have made a very large contribution towards the hospital and the funds that have been provided under the Community Project Budget are intended to be utilised for the equipment that I have just described.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that the hospital is called cooperative because cooperative societies were compelled to make some contribution due to the pressure of the Registrar who was there?

SHRI S. K. DEY: I have no knowledge of it. I may mention that during my last visit about six months ago, I found the cooperative-members for the hospital were very enthusiastic about what they were trying to establish.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that there is already a very fine medical institute known as the Karna-tak Health Institute working very satisfactorily for a long time? Then where was the necessity to start another big, huge hospital which is an ugly hospital when there is already one working very satisfactorily?

SHRI S. K. DEY: I was given to understand by the State Government that the new hospital is intended to be a complement to the Karnatak Institute which deals mainly with T.B. cases.