

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, we should have a half-an-hour discussion on this. We are interested in this. It is a public issue. It is being debated by the whole country. It is not an issue between me and the Home Minister. I think the Home Minister has given on the whole correct answer, except that you do not allow supplementaries; otherwise we would have said more things. After those shares were sold and lots of money were made, income-tax was not paid on that money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONVERSIONS BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

***700. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of conversions are being made by Christian missionaries in Assam and other backward areas of that State;

(b) if so, number of persons converted in these areas during the last five years; and

(c) the action taken by Government to check such conversions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There have been reports of foreign missionaries trying to extend their proselytisation activities in certain areas of Assam.

(b) There is no law providing for the registration of conversions from one religion to another. The precise information asked for is, therefore, not available.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OF WEST COAST ROAD

***701. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the West Coast Road in Kerala forming part of Bombay Cape Camorin National Highway is likely to be completed; and

(b) what is the total amount of money likely to be spent on this road and what was the original estimate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN):

(a) The West Coast Road is not a National Highway. However, the Government of India have been fully helping the State Governments concerned in its construction. The portion of the road in the State of Kerala is expected to be completed by the end of 1969.

(b) The amount likely to be spent on the road is Rs. 3.74 crores. The original estimate amounted to Rs. 1.15 crores.

CAPACITY OF INDIAN SHIPPING

***702. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) how much tonnage has been added to the Indian shipping during the last five years in (i) public sector and (ii) private sector;

(b) what efforts are being made to increase the tonnage during the Fourth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) whether any incentives are being offered to these sectors?

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

STATEMENT

(a) The net addition to Indian fleet during the last 5 years from 1-4-63 to 1-8-68 is as under:—

	Public Sector	Private Sector
(i) Number of ships added.	28	19
(ii) Net additional tonnage	2,62,064 GRT	6,16,130 GRT

(b) Every effort is being made to obtain ships from whichever country possible on reasonable credit terms both for acquisition of new tonnage and for purchase of secondhand vessels. Yugoslav Government credit for purchase of ships is being utilised by our shipping companies. Recently West German Government have agreed to provide credit for building new ships and