

"The Council considered the letter of Shri R.L. Meena, Law Secretary, addressed to the Chairman, Bar Council of India requesting the Bar Council of India to send comments in the matter to enable the Department of Legal Affairs to offer its comments to the Department of Commerce. After consideration, the Bar Council of India has reiterated its earlier view on the issue of not permitting foreign lawyers and law firms in the country. The Bar Council of India once again strongly opposes the entry of foreign lawyers and its strong views are to be made known to the Ministry of Law and Justice and Company affairs. In this view, the Council has no other views to offer on the subject."

The Government has so far not taken any dissimilar view.

Plan to Introduce Tonnage Tax

1963. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to introduce tonnage tax; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) While Government is committed to the establishment of a facilitative fiscal environment (including the introduction of tonnage tax) in which the shipping industry can thrive, no definite time-frame can be indicated since the entire process has to pass through different stages of consideration and examination including formal legislation.

Project to link the Barak Valley and adjoining Hill Districts

1964. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to link the Barak Valley and the adjoining Hill districts to the National Water-way;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the techno-economic feasibility study of the project has been completed;