

maximum speed of coastal ships is only eleven knots in India;

(b) whether the new ships proposed to be purchased are also of the same speed; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to direct the shipping concerns to purchase ships of higher speed rate?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. The speed of our coastal ships ranges from 7 knots to 17 knots.

(b) and (c). It is for the Shipping Companies to decide the speed of the vessels to be acquired, having regard to the nature of the trade, economics of operation, facilities at the ports to be touched, etc. However, by experience it has been found that ships with an average speed of 9 to 10 knots serve adequately the needs of the Indian Coastl Trade.

Deepening of Ganges for Navigation

***1263. Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to deepen the river Ganges from West Bengal to Allahabad city for the purposes of navigation; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to take the work in hand?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Western Kosi Canal

***1264.** { Shri Priya Gupta:
Shri Jogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Kosi Canal had been inaugurated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tenders were invited for the execution of this canal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to agitation in Nepal the work of execution of this canal has been delayed; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to expedite the work?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The local people in Nepal territory have demanded that the present alignment of the canal be pushed further north in order that a larger area may be commanded. The Kosi Project authorities are making every effort to settle the matter in consultation with the authorities concerned of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

Manufacture of Steel Converter

***1265. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new type of steel converter has been manufactured entirely in an Ajmer Workship; and

(b) whether its working has proved satisfactory?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) A steel converted was manufactured by Ajmer Workshops in the year 1913 for use in the Steel Foundry in the Carriage Wagon Workshop at Ajmer. An additional converter of a similar type incorporating certain improvements has recently been manufactured entirely at Ajmer Workshops and brought into commission early this year.

(b) The new converter is working satisfactorily.

Hybrid Maize Seed

***1266. Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by any Government agency to