

tankers involving considerable amount of foreign exchange when Indian tankers were lying idle ; and

(b) whether Government propose to utilise the idle capacity of Indian tankers in future before chartering foreign vessels ?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :**

(a) The Indian Oil Corporation invited competitive tenders on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh for the transport of 5 lakh tonnes of crude oil from loading ports in the Gulf to the Chittagong outer harbour, for its lighterage and its discharge at the Chittagong port oil jetties. The tender enquiry was for the entire composite operations right from the loading port in the gulf region upto the delivery of the crude oil in the shore tanks of the Chittagong Refinery. The tanker supplier was also required to undertake responsibility for lighterage operations at Chittagong and no detention or demurrage charges were to be paid to him on this account. The contract was awarded on this basis.

Only the Shipping Corporation of India has adequate number of Indian Flag Vessels to undertake the entire responsibility for this composite operation. It regretted its inability to quote as its tankers were employed elsewhere. The owner of another Indian Flag Tanker, quoted a very high rate, which was not acceptable. The owner of a third Indian Flag Tanker did not respond to IOC's enquiry.

(b) According to standing instructions, an Indian Flag Tanker is ordinarily given priority for the coastal movement of products. No competitive tenders are invited for this purpose as the coastal movement rates have been standardised and prescribed by the Ministry of Shipping & Transport. For the import of oil products, Indian Flag tankers are given preference, but only on the basis of competitive tenders.

**Proposal to set up a Fertilizer Factory at Bhatinda/Sirhind**

5874. **SHRI B. S. BHAURA :** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM & CHEMI-**

**CALS** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1507 on the 2nd August, 1971 regarding Naphtha based Fertilizer Factory at Bhatinda and state :

(a) the action taken so far on the proposal of the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation for setting up a fertilizer factory at Bhatinda/Sirhind ; and

(b) when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :** (a) and (b). The proposal is still under consideration of the Government.

**Construction of Cantonment Near Chandigarh**

5875. **SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :** Will the Minister of **DEFENCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new Cantonment near Chandigarh is under construction ;

(b) how long will it take to complete the construction ; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) :** (a) to (c). Certain works at a total approximate cost of Rs. 17 crores for meeting Defence purposes are under construction near Chandigarh. However, no decision has been taken to set up a Cantonment at the station.

**Officers and Staff Working in Public Undertakings**

5876. **SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Public Enterprises is maintaining a list of all Class I, II, III and IV employees of all the public enterprises under its control ;