

Enlargement of Merchant Navy

2130. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals are pending with the Government for enlargement of Merchant Navy in the country; and

(b) if so, the policy of the Government regarding expansion of the Shipping Industry?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). It is the Government's policy that, as much of India's export and import trade should be carried by Indian ships as possible. With this objective, the operative Indian tonnage during the Fifth Plan is proposed to be increased from 3.09 million gross tonnes to 6.50 million gross tonnes, with 0.50 million GRT on order. A provision of Rs. 410 crores has been made in the Fifth Plan for advancing loans to Shipping Companies for buying ships. In addition, Rs. 500 crores in foreign exchange have been provided for this purpose. Proposals for acquisition submitted by the Shipping companies are scrutinised on merits with reference to the above target, the types of ships suitable for India's trade and other relevant considerations.

Display of Bus Routes at Bus Stops by D.T.C.

2131. SHRI NATWARLAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has put up some boards on bus stands showing bus routes passing through those stands;

(b) whether many important bus stands have not been provided with such boards;

(c) whether these boards are only in English language which create difficulty for many commuters;

(d) whether Government are going to provide these boards on all important bus stands in Hindi and English; and

(e) if so, facts thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, no complaint has been received in this regard.

(d) and (e). It is proposed to provide boards in Hindi also at the bus stands where boards have already been put up in English.

Sale of vehicles from Central Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt

2132. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had received a letter from a Member of Parliament regarding alleged sale of vehicles which were allotted to workers of Central Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt. as ex-servicemen from surplus defence stock in April, 1977;

(b) whether Government propose to inquire into this malpractice; and

(c) if so, the fact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to a letter dated 22nd May, 1977 from Shri B. S. Chowhan, MP.

(b) and (c). Shri Balbir Singh, an ex-serviceman now serving in Central Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt, was allotted a vehicle on 25th September, 1974 in accordance with existing rules.