

(a) the total fleet strength of Shipping Corporation of India and its turnover during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, yearwise separately;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to increase the target of goods traffic during the Seventh Plan; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to purchase more ships ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Details are as follows :

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Number of vessels	143	142	158
GRT (Lakhs)	30.06	29.86	33.25
DWT (Lakhs)	50.01	49.66	55.06
Turnover (operating earnings) (Rs. in crores)	574.93	512.98	595.00 (estimated)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In addition to acquiring more ships, emphasis has been placed on acquiring specialised ships to cater to national requirements of trade.

Steps to Encourage Urdu and Sanskrit

3600. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state : the steps Government propose to take to ensure that Urdu and Sanskrit flourish throughout the country, especially in West Bengal and other parts of Eastern India ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : The Ministry of Education has been implementing a number of programmes for the promotion of Hindi, Urdu and other modern Indian languages, classical languages and English.

Promotion of Sanskrit

2. A number of schemes for the promotion of Sanskrit which are in operation are proposed to be continued and strengthened. The main schemes relate to the preservation of Sanskrit tradition, modernisation of content and methodology of teaching Sanskrit and popularisation of its study.

3. West Bengal and other parts of Eastern India are also covered under the above schemes which help promotion and development of Sanskrit. For instance,

last year 216 Sanskrit institutions in West Bengal were supported. Similarly institutions in the Eastern and other parts of the country were also assisted. Grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 3,56,083/- was released to Sanskrit institutions in West Bengal to enable them to meet the expenditure on payment of salaries of teachers and scholarships to students/scholars. Sanskrit 'Sahitya Parishad Patrika' and 'Jahnavi' in Calcutta are also receiving grant-in-aid from this Ministry for popularising Sanskrit. About 150 Sanskrit students in studying higher secondary classes were given scholarships during the last year. More than 200 old Sanskrit Pandits in indigent circumstances of West Bengal received financial assistance during the last year. Recently an all-India Sanskrit elocution contest and all-India Vedic Convention were organised by the Ministry on the premises of Government Sanskrit College, Calcutta. Similarly, almost all eastern States of India including Bihar, Orissa, Manipur, Meghalaya, etc. are being benefitted by various schemes which have been launched.

4. In the Seventh Plan greater emphasis will be given to in-service training of teachers, survey, editing and publication of rare Sanskrit manuscripts, preservation of oral Vedic tradition and use of modern communication technology for the teaching and learning of the language. Central and State endowments for preserving Vedic tradition are proposed to be set up. These

endowments are expected to assist Vedic scholars, audio and video tape oral tradition and support the effort at inter-disciplinary research. Two of the Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas at Tirupati and Delhi are proposed to be given the status of institution deemed to be University.

Promotion of Urdu

5. The Government of India have set up the Tarraqi-e-Urdu Board to advise it on programmes to be taken up for implementation, particularly for developing Urdu as a vehicle of contemporary thought. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Gujarat Committee which was constituted in 1972 and which reported in 1975, a Standing Committee has been set up to watch the implementation of various programmes initiated for the promotion of Urdu. The Bureau for the Promotion of Urdu, set up in 1971 as a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry, has also been strengthened.

6. The programmes initiated in the Sixth Five Year Plan are proposed to be continued with enhanced outlays. These schemes will include production of academic literature for students, compilation of technical terminology, preparation and publication of English Urdu, Urdu-English, Urdu-Urdu dictionaries and Urdu Encyclopaedia, establishment of calligraphy centres in different parts of the country, training of Urdu teachers and assistance to voluntary organisations working for the promotion of Urdu language for such activities as publication of books, maintenance of Urdu typewriting and shorthand centres, etc. To encourage authors and publication activities, Urdu books are purchased in multiple copies for free distribution to institutions.

7. There are Urdu Academies in 11 States, including West Bengal and Bihar. The Bureau for Promotion of Urdu organises periodically Coordination Committee meetings for all these academies. In these meetings publication programmes are reviewed so as to avoid duplication. Special efforts are proposed to be undertaken to promote the sale of Urdu books through these academies. Exhibitions of Urdu books are also organised by the Bureau for Promotion of Urdu, with the collaboration of State Urdu Academies. A calligraphy centre has already been set up

in Calcutta and four such centres have been set up in Bihar. A book entitled "Bengal Main Urdu" is likely to be published shortly.

8. For the Seventh Plan some new thrusts have been proposed. These include greater emphasis on inservice training of teachers, utilisation and learning of modern communication technology, Particularly radio and television, for teaching of Urdu and training of teachers. Organisation of correspondence courses and publication of a half-yearly research journal are also proposed to be undertaken by the Bureau for Promotion of Urdu. Experimental work for standardisation of Urdu characters with the intention of ascertaining whether printing in Urdu can be computerised is also proposed to be taken up. Such a development would facilitate a much larger publication activity in Urdu. Creative authors and voluntary organisations will be entrusted with preparation and publication of Urdu literature. It also proposed to start classes in Urdu in typewriting and stenography.

Sanjay Sagar Irrigation Project

3601. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sanjay Sagar (Bah) irrigation project in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh has been approved by the World Bank for construction but its appraisal work is still going on by the Central Water Commission and Planning Commission since last two years ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delaying the project for so long ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this project is coming up in the area where the irrigation percentage presently is even below 5 per cent ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Sanjay Sagar (Bah) Irrigation Project in the Vidisha District of Madhya Pradesh is one of the Medium Irrigation Projects included in the line of credit for World Bank assistance under the MP Medium Irrigation Project. However, since inclusion of this project in the pipeline,