

Authority has any proposal to develop this waterway ;

(c) if so, the details of the improvement plan ; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to undertake dredging to remove silt, deepen the Canal and strengthen it from Vijayawada to Madras with the help of the Dredging Corporation of India in a phased manner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The Buckingham Canal, which is a coastal tidal canal, flows from Peddaganjam Lock in Andhra Pradesh (about 110 kms. south of Vijayawada) to Marakanam backwaters in Tamilnadu through Madras. The Canal is heavily silted up.

(b) and (c). The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu are primarily responsible for the development of this waterway. A scheme of the Govt. of Tamilnadu costing Rs. 200 lakhs has been sanctioned as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to improve the Buckingham Canal stretch between Ennore Lock (near Madras) to Chintamani Lock, to a bed width of 10 meters and depth of 1.8 metres below low water level. The State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has also planned improvement in the stretch of Buckingham Canal lying in its territory, for widening and deepening the same for navigational purposes at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.00 crores.

(d) No Sir.

Replacement of M.V. Andamans and M.V. Nancowry

1992. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether M.V. Andamans and M.V. Nancowry have become very old and not attracting tourists to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ;

(b) if so, whether the Shipping Corpo-

ration of India is going to procure and operate new vessels in this sector ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the data by which these new vessels are likely to come into operation in this sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The vessels M.V. Andamans and T.S.S. Nancowry have become very old and have out-lived their normal lives. These ships mainly cater to the traffic of Islanders and Government employees.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Acquisition of 3 vessels for operation on the mainland-Andaman service has been approved by the Govt. and these vessels are likely to be put into operation by 1990-1991.

Assistance to States for Providing Science Teachers and Laboratory Rooms

1993. SHRI SURESH KURUP :

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH
GOSWAMI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the new education policy the State Governments were asked to provide science teachers and laboratory rooms to qualify for receiving Rs. 160 crores central project for improving science education in schools ;

(b) if so, whether it is possible for States to meet such huge expenditure to appoint teachers and develop laboratories etc. ; and

(c) whether Union Government have any plan to finance States on this score also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The Government proposes to provide financial