

Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Since sales through the State Bank of India did not pick up resulting in substantial accumulation of gold stocks, BGML was permitted to appoint a selling agent, to whom one percent commission is payable on the gold sold as in the case of State Bank of India, for augmenting the sales. The sale of gold to licensed dealers through the agent has picked up because of his direct contacts which could not be established through the branches of the State Bank of India.

2. The agreement with the selling agent is for a period of one year which can be extended by another year. The arrangements through the State Bank of India are to be continued without any limitation regarding the duration. The agreement entered with the agent provides necessary safeguards; and BGML has also obtained a irrevocable revolving Bank guarantee from the agent of cover the gold being handed over from time to time. This bank guarantee is encashable if the agent does not hand over the proceeds of the gold assigned to him.

Plan Targets of Acquisition of Ships

2434. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tight foreign exchange position has hit hard country' ship acquisition programme as envisaged in the Seventh Plan;

(b) the extent to which the Plan targets of acquisition of ships remain unachieved due to high ship prices and low capital formation by the Indian companies;

(c) whether Government are taking a fresh look at the formula of financing shipping companies evolved by the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how it is proposed to implement the ship acquisition plans and obviate India's dependence on the foreign shipping lines for export of its cargo and tide over the present foreign exchange crunch jeopardy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Acquisition of ships in most cases involves payment in foreign exchange and the foreign exchange availability is one of the factors governing the pace of ship acquisition. The 7th Plan target of acquisition of ships have, however, not been achieved mainly due to reasons such as recession in the shipping industry till the end of 1987 and massive scrapping of old ships. The losses suffered by many shipping companies during the period of recession retarded their programme of acquisition of new ships.

(c) and (d). The Ministry of Finance are reviewing the funding formula of "Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India. No final decision has been taken in the matter.

(e) The Government have taken the following steps to increase the Indian tonnage which will help in reduce India's dependence on the foreign shipping lines for export of its cargo:

(i) Speeding up the acquisition procedures;

(ii) Liberalisation of the acquisition norms;

(iii) Allowing ship owners to place orders on Indian shipyards without reference to assessed requirements;

(iv) Providing cargo support to Indian shipping;

- (v) Modification of pari-passu obligations;
- (vi) Rehabilitation of sick but viable shipping companies;
- (vii) During April, 1987 to 30th June, 1989, Private Companies have been given approvals to acquire 135 ships out of which 37 ships have been acquired so far;
- (viii) Shipping Corporation of India has currently on order 15 ships aggregating to 5.03 lakh DWT either for itself or on behalf of other Government agencies.
- (ix) A specialised financing institution viz. Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI) has been formed to provide finances for ship acquisition by Private companies.

Inadequate Storage Facilities for Fertilisers

2435. SHRI MURLI DHAR MANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of fertiliser bags wasted annually due to inadequate godown facilities and delay in loading;

(b) the approximate loss incurred during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure quick loading provide more godowns and to protect the fertiliser bags from being damaged by rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) to (c). By and large adequate godown facilities for storage of fertilisers are

available in the country. About 1% of the fertilisers bags get damaged on account of movement by rail/road, handling at warehouses/rail heads or other such unforeseen circumstances like delay in loading etc. Care is taken to keep the losses to the minimum, by insisting on ISI specifications for Laminated Jute bags etc.

Supply of Diesel to Deep Sea Fishing Industry at Lower Rates

2436. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: SHRIDAULATSINHJIJADEJA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Commerce have submitted any proposal to his Ministry for supply of diesel to deep sea fishing industry at lower rates; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). A copy of a scheme formulated by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for supply of diesel to deep sea fishing vessels at international prices has been received by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries from the Ministry of Commerce. The proposal is being examined.

Opening of Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas

2437. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open any new Kendriya or Navodaya