

**Withdrawal of Rs. 1.25 Pass Ticket by D.T.C.**

468. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation has withdrawn the Rs. 1.25 pass ticket system and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the daily loss, the DTC is undergoing due to this decision; and

(c) whether DTC are thinking to re-start the Rs. 1.25 pass facility for the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The DTC Board decided to discontinue the daily excursion ticket of Rs. 1.25 with effect from the 15th January, 1975, because these were uneconomical and were also encouraging avoidable heavy traffic during the hours when the Corporation had no spare carrying capacity;

(b) Withdrawal of these tickets has not had any adverse effect on the trend of daily earnings.

(c) Since a number of representations have been received against the abolition of these tickets, DTC management proposes to place the matter before the Corporation's Board for reconsideration.

**Release of amount to Kerala for purchase of Boats**

469. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala have requested the Central Government to release the balance amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the State Government's scheme of acquiring 20 passenger boats and 5 cargo boats during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) and (b). The scheme of the Government of Kerala for the purchase of 20 passenger and 5 cargo boats was approved as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at a cost of Rs. 39 lakhs during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. On the basis of the actual expenditure already incurred or expected to be incurred and availability of funds in the Central Budget, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 18.50 lakhs was released during the Fourth Plan period and the balance amount of Rs. 11.50 lakhs has also since been released.

**Request of Kerala for increase of Agency Charges**

470. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala have requested the Central Government to increase the agency charges to the State for the works executed by it for the development and maintenance of National Highways; and

(b) if so, the gist thereof and the steps taken by the Central Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala have requested for an increase in the agency charges from 7½ per cent to 15 per cent. Some other State Governments have also requested for an increase in the agency charges at present being paid to them. In order to examine their request in its proper perspective, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, certain particulars have been called for from the State Governments. Receipt of these particulars from the State Governments is awaited.