

[English]

**Loss to Ship-Owners Due to Holding up of Ships at Ports**

6690. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cargo ships are being held up at the ports due to shortage of certificated officers consequently increasing shipowners' operating costs; and

(b) if so, the quantum of losses being incurred by them on this account?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The Indian National Shipowners Association has estimated the total number of ship days lost by Indian shipowners for want of certificated officers to be around 335 during the period from July 1989 to January 1990. The average loss per ship day on account of standing charges has been estimated by Indian National Shipowners Association at around Rs. 1 lakh.

**Entrusting of Work of Village Panchayat to Taluka Panchayat Under JRY**

6691. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a flexibility is given to the State Governments or to DRDA to entrust the work of the Village Panchayats to the Taluka Panchayats if the Village Panchayat is not in a position to take up the work under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA

NATH VERMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Where the Village Panchayat/Panchayats are not in existence, their (Village Panchayat/Panchayats) share of funds will be passed on to the concerned Block/Block Samiti who will be responsible for implementing the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in those Panchayat/Panchayats.

[Translation]

**Haj Nivas**

6692. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Haj Nivas' have been constructed in Delhi and Bombay for Haj pilgrims; and

(b) if so, the share of Union Government in the construction of these Haj Nivas?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). The construction work of "Bait-ul-Hujaj" or "Haj House" in Bombay is nearing completion. The Central Government did not provide any financial assistance in its construction. Information on the part of the question relating to "Haj Nivas" in Delhi is being collected.

[English]

**Exemption of Telephone Services from the Ambit of Consumers' Protection Act, 1986**

6693. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has any proposal to seek exemption of telephone services from the