

and telegraph offices at present;

(b) the number of villages which come under the stipulated norms for opening new post offices, sub-post offices and telegraph offices; and

(c) the number of post offices, sub-post offices and telegraph offices opened during 1990-91 and proposed to be opened during 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) *Post Offices*: The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telegraph Offices: There are 2991 villages in Udaipur District without Telegraph facilities at present.

(b) *Post Offices*: There is no such case.

Telegraph Office: At present 256 villages come under the norms for opening new combined P&T Offices.

(c) *Post Office*: Three Post offices were opened during the year 1990-91. The annual Plan for 1991-92 is yet to be finalised.

Telegraph Offices: Four combined P&T Offices have been opened during 1990-91 and it is proposed to open 5 combined P&T Offices during 1991-92.

[*English*]

Water Sports Complex and Foreign Investment in Tourism

1337. SHRI MOHANBHAI SANJIBHAI DELKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to set up water sports complex to encourage foreign tourists in the country;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration for inviting foreign investment in the tourism industry;

(c) if so, whether any policy has been formulated by the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging the growth of water sports activity in the country.

(b) to (d). The Government is permitting foreign investment and collaboration in the Hotel Industry. Proposals, as and when received, are considered on merit.

Introduction of Shipping Services

1338. SHRI MOHANBHAI DELKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Shipping Industry has been adversely affected by the recent oil crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for starting ferry services between Daman and Diu, Daman-Bombay-Goa and Bombay and Mangalore;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are also considering reintroduction of M.V. Chidambaram to operate between Madras-Port Blair, Madras-Singapore and Madras-Nagapatnam;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether there is any proposal for introduction of speedier vessels between Cochin and Kaurati (Lakshadweep)?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of bunker fuel, which constitutes a major operating cost of ships, has shot up substantially since 2.8.1990 with consequential downward effect on earnings of Indian Shipowners. The Gulf crisis has also increased the insurance costs for trade in that area. The embargo on trade with Iraq and Kuwait and the down trend in international freight markets has also affected Indian Shipping adversely.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present before the Government for starting ferry service between Daman-Diu and Bombay-Mangalore. Government have accorded approval to M/s. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. (SSCL) and M/s. Link-on Sea Link Pvt. Ltd. (LSPL) to acquire vessels for operating Passenger Service from Bombay to Goa. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. have indicated that they would start the Passenger Service as soon as they obtain possession of the vessel. It is likely that this may take about 12 months.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

National Shipping Policy

1339. SHRI MOHANBHAI SANJIBHAI DELKAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered shipping companies and the number of companies out of them that are earning profits;

(b) the total accumulated losses, if any, of the shipping companies as per the latest figures available;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating evolving a new National Shipping Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) There are 52 shipping companies. The precise number of companies earning profits is not readily available. However, according to Indian National Shipowners Association almost all these companies have made operating profits before interest and depreciation during the year 1989-90.

(b) According to latest figures available, the total accumulated losses of the major shipping companies as on 31.3.90 are given below:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Complex</i>	<i>Loss (Rs. lakhs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1)	Chowgule Steamships Ltd.	8.00
2)	Surrendra Overseas Ltd.	2327.00