

Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1976/67]

(b) A provision of Rs. 234 crores has been included in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan for the development of major ports.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 23.66 crores was incurred during 1966-67 and an expenditure of Rs. 36.30 crores is anticipated to be incurred during 1967-68.

VERIFICATION OF THE ANTECEDENTS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*653. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the practice of police verification of antecedents of those seeking Government employment is being given up in some States; and

(b) if so, the names of those States where the said practice has been discarded and the consequent reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Government of West Bengal and Kerala have only dispensed with the verification of political antecedents of candidates seeking employment under them. They continue to verify the other antecedents and character of candidates through the district civil and police authorities. It is for the State Government to adopt a policy suitable to them in respect of services under them and the Central Government would not interfere in the matter.

INDIAN FLAG SHIPS FOR PL-480 IMPORTS

654. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT & SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Indian flag ships in carrying the PL-480 imports during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the share?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT & SHIPPING (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO): (a) The U.S. PL-480 regulations require that 50% of the PL-480 foodgrain imports should be carried in U.S. flag ships. Out of the remaining 50%, the share of Indian flag ships since 1964-65 has been as follows:—

1964-65	1%
1965-66	6%
1966-67	5%
1967-68 (8 months)	25%

In the case of cotton the proportion carried by Indian ships has been 30% to 35% throughout these years and for Soya bean oil and tallow the proportion has been between 13 to 16%;

(b) Indian shipping is given the first priority in lifting cargoes and foreign ships are chartered only when Indian shipping is not available in the required position.

FUTURE OF CHANDIGARH

*655. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to the solution of the Chandigarh issue; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a Presidential Council for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) It has not so far been possible to evolve a procedure acceptable to both the Governments of Punjab and Haryana to solve this issue. Efforts in this direction will be resumed after mid-term elections are held in Haryana.

(b) No, Sir, at present there is no such proposal under consideration.

शिक्षा तथा आर्थिक विकास के लिये संचार उपग्रह के प्रयोग की परियोजना

*656. श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री:

श्री स० ख० बेसरा :

श्री मयाबन

क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या शिक्षा और आर्थिक विकास हेतु संचार उपग्रह के प्रयोग के लिये पायलट परियोजना शुरू करने की व्यवहार्यता का अध्ययन करने के लिये 'यूनेस्को की एक पांच सदस्यीय टीम ने हाल ही में भारत का दौरा किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके साथ हुई बातचीत का ब्यौरा क्या है; और