

M. V. "Kedarnath"

3714. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.V. 'KEDARNATH' went down in the Bay of Bengal on the night of 6th June, 1980;

(b) if so, the name of the owners of this vessel and the loss caused thereby;

(c) whether it has been possible to salvage the vessel;

(d) whether any enquiry has been ordered into this mishap; if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what preventive measures have been or are proposed to be taken to prevent such mishaps occurring in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) M. V. KEDARNATH did not go down in the Bay of Bengal but stranded on the rocks of Preparis Island, north of Andaman Islands, at 0120 hrs. on 7-6-1980.

(b) M/s. Himalaya Shipping Company are the owners of the vessel. The vessel had no cargo on board. The vessel was abandoned by the crew and may be treated as total constructive loss. There was no loss of life.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Preliminary Inquiry under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 is being conducted by the Principal Officer, Merchantile, Marine Department, Calcutta.

(e) Measures and actions, if any, to prevent such occurrences depends on the findings of the Inquiry.

Accidents in Kanpur-Achenera Section of North-Eastern Railway during 1979

3715. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents occurred in Kanpur-Achenera section of North-Eastern Railway during 1979;

(b) the causes of the accidents;

(c) the loss of life and property in each accident; and

(d) the steps taken by the railway administration to check and avoid accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) From 1-1-79 to 31-12-79 there were 10 train derailments and 1 level crossing accident on Kanpur Achnera section of North-Eastern Railway.

(b) Of these 11 accidents, 8 were due to failure of railway staff, 2 were due to persons other than railway staff and one was due to failure of mechanical equipment.

(c) Loss of life and cost of damage to railway property involved in these accidents are given below:—

Category of Accidents	Persons Killed	Approximate cost of damage to Railway property
Deraillments . . .	1	1,94,500
Level Crossing Accident . . .	1	10,050

(d) Since failure of railway staff is the largest single factor responsible for accidents, Safety Organisation on the railway has been engaged in a relentless campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains.