

**Sinking of Coastal Ship
"S. S. Sabitri"**

*1063. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Coastal Ship "S. S. Sabitri" sank in the Bay of Bengal on the 25th June, 1960, 40 miles from Chandbali in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the cause of the accident?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the accident will be known only when the preliminary enquiry which is now being held is completed.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know as to when the ship was last inspected and surveyed and what the immediate cause of the sinking of the ship was?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have just now stated, these particular matters will be gone into by the enquiry which is being undertaken by the Mercantile Marine Department. I think that will be the proper time when I could place these facts in an authentic manner before the House.

Dr. Gohokar: May I know the tonnage of the ship and whether it was a passenger ship or a transport ship?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The gross registered tonnage of the ship was 368 and its carrying capacity was about 370 tons.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस जहाज की कीमत क्या थी ?

श्री राज बहादुर : कीमत के बारे में मैं निश्चित रूप से कुछ नहीं कह सकता हूँ ।

Free Port at Karaikal

*1064. { **Shri Wodeyar:**
+
Shri Agadi:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the public of the South for the revival of the closed free port of Karaikal; and

(b) what are the special circumstances and advantages to declare Kandla as a "Free Port"?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. Some requests have been received by the Government of Pondicherry from some sectors of the business community of Karaikal.

(b) There is no proposal to declare Kandla as a "Free Port". However, a proposal is under consideration for the establishment of a Free Trade Zone near that port to give a fillip to the establishment of industries in the region and increase the employment potential of the place.

Shri Wodeyar: Is there not sufficient scope for the establishment of important industries roundabout Karaikal? If so, what are those industries?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That would be a question which may be asked of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Railway Journey to Pakistan

*1065. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passengers going to Pakistan have to disembark at Munabae and stand in queue for purchasing their outward journey tickets for several hours; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that direct Railway tickets are not issued for Barmer, the last check post on Indian side?