

made to them for expansion of Indian shipping, would be increased now?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We are already considering this matter, and in fact, the main reason for the loss, is the size of the ships, and their number, being only two. That is, the ships should have been of a bigger size with more carrying capacity of passengers plus cargo. And secondly, the number of ships should have been more, that is, if there are at least four ships, then it might become economic. They have asked for subsidies and the matter is under consideration, and it will go up before the Economic Committee of the Cabinet.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Do Government intend to lower the rate of interest on the loan which has been given to them, i.e. the shipping companies having services between India and U.K.?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have already informed in answering a question last time in this House, that the rate of interest has already been reduced to 2½ per cent.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could the Minister please tell us how much of the tonnage of Indian shipping operating between India and the U.K. is Indian-owned, and how much of it is chartered? Could he also tell us if this has anything to do with the reasons for the failure of the Indian shipping companies?

Shri L. B. Shastri: There are only two Indian passenger ships plying on the India-U.K. route, and of course, the remaining are foreign ships. I have just told the House that the loss is due to the ships being limited to two only, and the Scindia Navigation Co., have asked for subsidies, and Government is already considering the matter.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Are the ships owned by the Indian concerns, or are they chartered from some other foreign companies?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They are owned by the Indian companies.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know to what extent the unremunerative nature of this service depends on the monopoly of foreign-owned shipping?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have already given the reasons. That is the only

reason for the loss that is being incurred.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I wanted to know the extent, not the reasons.

Mr. Speaker: He assumes that there is a monopoly. Is that so?

Shri L. B. Shastri: There is no monopoly. When the Indian shipping company is allowed to ply ships, the question of monopoly does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: The question was based on that assumption.

Shri Achuthan: What is the amount of subsidy that the Company has asked for?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Their loss come to about Rs. 22 lakhs in 1950. I cannot give you the exact figure that they have asked for, but it must be something about Rs. 10 to 11 lakhs per year.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have enquired into the reasons as to how this unremunerativeness has come about?

Mr. Speaker: I think he has explained that their running is uneconomic.

Shri Nambiar: I asked whether they have enquired as to why it has become unremunerative.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION

*465. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases in which reports from individuals, parties or newspapers were received regarding deaths having occurred due to starvation during 1952 from the various scarcity areas in different States;

(b) the number of cases in which enquiries were held; and

(c) the cases in which enquiries showed that death was really due to starvation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (c) A statement containing the information as received from the State Governments is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Starvation Deaths.

State	Total No. of cases reported	No. of cases enquired into	No. of cases still under consideration	No. of cases in which death was really due to starvation	Remarks
Assam	25	25	..	..
Bihar	72	61	11	*2	*Suspected
West Bengal	281	148	133	..	due to star-
U. P.	229	206	24	..	vation or
Vindhya Pradesh . . . . .	..	..	..	..	mal-nutri-
Manipur	7	7	..	..	tion).
Mysore	15	15	..	..
Bombay	32	32	..	..
Rajasthan . . . . .	..	..	..	..
Madras	106	106	..	..
TOTAL	767	599	168	2	

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, the agencies in general through which these enquiries were made?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: We enquire of the various Governments concerned, and they carry on the enquiry.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government has taken the trouble to enquire through which agencies the State Government make these enquiries?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: Probably through their officials.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether those officials belonged to the Police or were they officials higher up?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: We have no information from the State Governments.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether Government has any statistics regarding the half-famished people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. N. Das: Out of the total number of cases reported, how many reports were from individuals, how many from parties and how many from newspapers?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: That we have given in the statement laid on the Table.

Shri S. N. Das: No mention has been made in the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. S. More: Have Government received any report about starvation deaths—three or four—from the village of ginti, Karmara Taluk in Sholapur District?

Shri M. V. Krishnaappa: I think it is also given

Mr. Speaker: I think it is no use going into details, now. It is done by the States. If hon. Members want any information, they can put specific questions. It is no use wasting time over a thing, in respect of which there is no information, available here.

Shri S. N. Das: May I ask one more question?

Mr. Speaker: He may go to the next question.

GANGA BRIDGE

*466. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government for the construction of a bridge over the river Ganga at Mokameh ghat?

(b) What is the estimated expenditure on this account?

(c) How much time will it take to complete the construction?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) It has been decided to resume work on the construction of the bridge over the Ganga at Mokameh Ghat. An