

ment has declined to grant compensation for loss of life and baggage; and

(c) if so, whether this goes against the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act and International Conventions on the subject ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Twenty-nine bodies/skulls have been recovered after the fire accident.

(b) Government is not liable to pay any compensation for loss of life or baggage of passengers under any provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act or any International Conventions ratified by the Govt. of India. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10,000/- is being paid by Shipping Corporation of India to next of kin of each person who died in the accident. Further an amount of Rs. 500/- has been paid as ex-gratia to each of 271 passengers who lost their baggage.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Admission to Central Schools

1410. **SHRI G.V. RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government employes are facing difficulties in getting their children admitted in Central Schools in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the number of admissions made and the number of applications for admissions received in Central Schools in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government will consider running of 2-3 shifts in the Central Schools till the accommodation problem is solved ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Record of applications for admissions is not kept beyond one year. It is, therefore, not possible to give information regarding number of appli-

cations received in various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country during the last three years.

Information regarding number of admissions made during the last three years i.e. 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the number of applications received at the beginning of Academic Session 1984-85 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(c) No, Sir.

Vacant Post of Regional General Manager

1411. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH ;** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many posts of Regional General Managers in Railways are lying vacant and for how long;

(b) whether this is causing any harm to Railways in decision-making process; and

(c) if not, by what time these appointments are likely to be made by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) None of the posts of General Managers on Railways is lying vacant.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Maritime Frauds

1412. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether maritime frauds have been on the increase according to a Seminar on International Maritime and Commercial Frauds held in Bombay earlier this month;

(b) if so, the genesis of these frauds and the penal action taken by Government in case of known default;

(c) whether it has been suggested that Reserve Bank of India should be vested with necessary powers to withhold