

(c) Cadre restructuring scheme is essentially designed to bring about a measure of rationalisation and to reduce internal and inter-railway disparities in the promotional avenues of certain categories. This has been achieved to a considerable extent.

(d) Posts are created on the basis of an assessment of the work-load responsibility. As a matter of fact, the gross earnings of the N.E. Railway have increased from Rs. 50 crores in 1970-71 to Rs. 88 crores in 1977-78.

**Divisionalisation on N.E. Railway**

5363. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the category-wise officers of all grades and designation including class III and IV staff existing on the North Eastern Railway prior to the divisionalisation and now, with the income of the Railway prior to the Divisionalisation and after?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Statistics are maintained on the Indian Railways on financial year basis, i.e. from 1st April to 31st March of the following year. The divisionalisation on the North-Eastern Railway took place on 1-5-1969. Hence, the data for prior to Divisionalisation has been given for financial year ending 31st March, 1969, alongwith the data for 1977-78, which is the latest year for which statistics are available.

**I. Staff Strength (in units, as on 31st March)**

Groups	1969	1978
Groups A & B	478	613
<b>Group C</b>		
(a) Workshop & Artisan	10,455	13,060
(b) Running	4,624	5,211
(c) Others	22,237	24,303
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,336</b>	<b>42,579</b>

<b>Group D</b>		
(a) Workshop & Artisan	13,194	14,733
(b) Running	1,849	2,158
(c) Others	39,483	38,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,526</b>	<b>55,446</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92,340</b>	<b>98,638</b>

**II. Gross Earnings (In thousands of Rupees)**

1968-69	1977-78
40,58,86	87,79,49

**962-Ton Panamanian Freighter M.V. Araba**

5364. SHRI VASANT SATHE:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 962-Ton Panamanian freighter M.V. "Araba" manned by a 16 member crew comprising 15 Indians and one crew from Sri Lanka is missing in mysterious circumstances for the past four months since it set sail for Bombay via Karachi from Dubai on August 30 last;

(b) if so, furnish facts of the matter and the reaction of Government thereto, particularly relating to the news report appearing in 'Free Press Journal' Bombay dated 24-2-78;

(c) details of action taken and results thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the ship was recently repaired and the report submitted by the engineer advises against immediate operation of the ship; and

(e) if so, the reasons why it was put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (c). M. V. "Araba" a foreign vessel with 17 Indian crew and one Sri Lanka crew was reported to have sailed from Dubai on 27-8-78 for Karachi whereafter no information is available. The officers and Indian crew were not signed on the vessel under Indian Articles of Agreement and were not recruited through Seamen's Employment Office as per Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 but were engaged direct by foreign owners through their Agents in Bombay M/s. Ilyas Shipping Private Limited.

As soon as enquiry about whereabouts of the above vessel and its crew was received by the Directorate General of Shipping, messages were sent by the Directorate to our Embassies in Iran, Abu Dhabi and Karachi for making necessary enquiries and advising us about the whereabouts of the vessel and condition of crew. Meanwhile, it was understood from Lloyds Intelligence Service, London that despite their enquiries with their Agents at Dubai, Karachi and Penang and with the owners of vessel, Asian Forwarding Agencies of Penang, and despite broadcast through Karachi Radio, they could not obtain any news of the vessel and declared it as missing on 22-11-78.

(d) and (e). The vessel "Araba" may have been repaired abroad and therefore Government is not aware whether the engineer had advised against immediate operation of the vessel.

### Virginitv Tests

5365. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report in the 'Statesman' dated the 28th February, 1979 under the caption "Virginitv tests on Asian";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the various observations made therein and facts of the matter; and

(c) details of action taken/proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The article was headlined, "Virility Test on Asians".

(b) and (c). No case has come to Government's notice in which any Indian male visiting Britain was subjected to a "virility test". A statement on the Virginitv test matter was made in Lok Sabha by the Ministry for External Affairs on 21 February. The Indian High Commission in London, has in fact, taken up specific cases concerning the treatment of Indian nationals by British Immigration officials and maintained contact with organisations in Britain dealing with questions of immigration and race relations.

Regarding the case of a pregnant woman detained at London airport, the Indian High Commission made enquiries into the case. The incident occurred in October 1976. The British Government wrote to the High Commission explaining the circumstances. The Indian lady did not have an entry clearance. She was detained pending deportation when she gave birth to a child which died subsequently. The lady was given medical attention and treated with concern. It is learnt that the husband did not pursue the matter or carry out his earlier threat of legal action. The lady was allowed to remain in the country and was not removed.

### Departmentalising Dining Car in Assam Mail

5366. SHRI GYANESHWAR PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dining car services of 3Up/4Dn Assam Mail is being taken