

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Shri A. E. Adam, Seaman, is reported killed. Shri C. Rozario, Second Engineer is reported missing and presumed dead. The ship was not sunk but damaged and was towed by Iran Naval authorities to Bushire.

(b) The reason for the gunfire on the ship is not known. The compensation is being arranged by the Shipping Company to the families of the deceased persons as per the agreement with the Seamen's Unions. The ship is reported to have suffered heavy damage and may require extensive repair to become seaworthy. It is understood there was no damage to the cargo which had been off loaded.

#### **Karonji — Barwadih Line**

743. SHRI CHAKRADHARI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when Government have been considering for laying the proposed railway line from Karonji to Barwadih in respect of which survey work has been completed; and

(b) if so, the obstacles in the way of laying the said railway line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) A preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a Broad Gauge line from Barwadih to Karonji with an alternative route via Ambikapur and Bishrampur was sanctioned in 1978-79. The field work of the survey is over and the financial appraisal is being worked out. A final view in the matter will be taken in consultation with the Planning Commission with due regard to feasibility and viability of the scheme and availability of resources.

#### **Improving External Publicity**

744. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present arrangements for external publicity and to correct the misinformation being circulated in Arab countries about India;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to challenge and contradict distortions about our country and project real picture of India; and

(c) whether any scheme is under consideration to overhaul and improve the system of external publicity?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Improving our external publicity effort, particularly in the Gulf, West Asia and North Africa, has been a matter of special interest and concern over the last two years. The steps already taken and in the process of implementation in this regard are the following:—

(1) A larger number of Arab journalists have been invited to visit India to observe developments in India first-hand;

(2) greater attention is being given to put out printed publicity material on India in Arabic for distribution in the Arab countries;

(3) our missions in Cairo, Damascus, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Tripoli are being provided with a greater amount of feature articles and commentaries on Indian developments for local publicity through their own news bulletins and magazines;

(4) Indian trade, technological and journalists delegations have visited these countries and they have utilised the opportunity to remove distortions and to put Indian developments in correct perspective;