

"M. V. Anastasis"

202. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 70 lakh worth ship "M. V. Anastasis" certified as fit and sea-worthy till 1985 has been registered as per the Merchant Shipping Act with the Directorate General of Shipping;

(b) if so, when and the names of the previous two owners and other details of the said ship;

(c) whether Government are aware that the ship is now being ripped open as scrap by the Government of India undertaking viz. Steel Industries Kerala Limited;

(d) whether the matter of the sale and ownership of "M. V. Anastasis" is being litigated in the courts; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken against a Government Undertaking over an ownerless foreign ship for scrap opening?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) M. V. "Anastasis" is a foreign vessel. As such, it is not registered with Directorate General of Shipping, Bombay under the Merchant Shipping Act and no information with regard to its ownership etc. is available.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on its receipt.

Ship-building yard at Hajira

203. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that Hajira in Gujarat is an ideal location on techno-economic consideration for establishment of a ship-building yard as per recommendations by experts; and

(b) if so, whether a decision to locate a ship-building yard at Hajira is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the availability of resources and the need for modernisation and expansion of the existing shipyards to achieve increased production in a shorter period with lesser investment, it has been decided to review the question of establishment of additional shipyards in the country, including the one at Hajira in Gujarat State, at the time of the mid-term review of the Sixth Five Year Plan. A final decision will depend on the availability of resources and relative priorities.

Preservation of folk arts

204. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rural folk arts traditional cultural activities and sports of rural Indian origin are fast vanishing; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to preserve and promote such traditional rural activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) Some forms of traditional and folk arts are languishing and may disappear if adequate support is not given. The Sangeet Natak Akademi under its programme of conservation and promotion of folk and traditional arts has initiated the following schemes:

(i) Documentation, archival collection and research.

(ii) Promotion and preservation of rare forms of performing arts.

(iii) Development of tribal culture.

(iv) Preservation and promotion of puppetry.

Besides these, financial support is given by the Akademi to cultural organisations engaged in imparting training in various forms of folk and tribal arts.

There is also a scheme of collection and preservation of folk and tribal music by All India Radio Stations.

In the field of traditional rural sports, the Government of India sanctions financial assistance to State Governments for establishment and maintenance of Rural Sports Centres. Financial assistance is also given for holding competitions at Block, District and State levels.

Smuggling of antiques to foreign Countries

205. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are aware that precious idols and antiques of Indian origin are being smuggled out to foreign countries;

(b) whether our consulates in foreign countries are instructed to report all such sales and activities with regard to smuggled Indian idols and antiques; and

(c) the full details of preventive action being taken by Indian Consulates abroad?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to the information supplied by the Ministry of Finance, reports received by Government do not indicate any large scale

smuggling of antiques and art treasures out of India during the recent past. The Customs authorities, in co-ordination with officers of the Archaeological Survey of India, maintain a strict watch at the International airports and Ports to prevent any attempts at smuggling of such items out of the country.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of External Affairs have issued no such instructions. It is primarily for the Ministries of Education and Culture/ Finance to advise the Ministry of External Affairs if and when such instructions are to be issued to our Missions abroad. However, Indian Missions abroad do bring such instances to the knowledge of the Ministry of External Affairs as and when they come to their notice.

Tanjore-Pudukottai Railway Line

206. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for laying New Railway line between Tanjore and Pudukottai in Tamilnadu; and

(b) if so, the details hereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Report of the Commissioner Rail Safety Bangalore on the Collision between Island Express and Goods Train

207. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPAKASAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner for Railway Safety Bangalore while submitting the report on the collision between the Island Express and a goods train at Vaniampadi in 1981, expressed any opinion on pre-empting such actions; and