

PATIL): (a) to (c). The crew of Greek tanker "Ypapanti" flying Liberian Flag consisted among others, of seven Indian nationals. They were not registered seamen. The tanker was anchored in international waters near Dover Delaware. It was not allowed to dock as it did not have full complement of safety equipment required in U.S. Law. The owners of the ship therefore decided to sign-off the crew and offered to pay all dues in terms of the contract under which they were signed-on. The crew reportedly refused to accept this offer and demanded wages as per ITF rates. Finally, they were repatriated to Delhi at owner's cost.

Under the provisions of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, all Indian seamen are required to be registered with Seamen's Employment Office at Bombay or Calcutta and their recruitment for ships has to be only through one of these two SEO's. In the instant case, the Indian nationals were not registered seamen and were not legally appointed through Seamen's Employment Offices at Bombay/Calcutta. However, it is under consideration whether any action can be taken in this case.

Expansion of Mecheda Railway Station

2367. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken the matter of expanding the Mecheda Railway Station under Howrah Kharagpur Section of South Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the work will be taken up and when it will be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The existing station building is not being extended. However, construction of a new station building with adequate facilities on the south side of Mecheda Yard has been taken up, as

part of construction of exchange yard to connect Kolaghat Thermal Power Station.

(b) One station building having booking office, upper class waiting room, gents waiting room, ladies waiting room with attached toilet and retiring room has been planned. Tenders for the same will be called shortly.

For the extension of the foot-over-bridge, structural fabrication work has already been taken in hand in the Engineering Workshop at Sini. For column foundation tenders were opened on 29.4.82.

(c) Construction of the station building and foot-over-bridge will be taken up immediately after finalisation of the tenders.

Alleged Malpractices by Guard on Patna-Gaya Sector

2368. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press Report appearing in Times of India dated 29th June, 1982 that on the Patna-Gaya Sector of the Eastern Railway the passengers get the signature of the Guard on their left palm for a mere Rs 2/- per head which serve as their tickets also highlighting the working of the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government with regard thereto stating the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) A system of regular and special checks already exists but to ascertain the veracity of the report, ambush checks have been organised on Patna-Gaya section of Eastern Railway.

However, ticketless travel is a social problem and is aggravated by difficult law and order situation, as prevailing in the Eastern Region.

Schemes formulated and their progress under 20 point programmes

2369. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to analyse the progress of the schemes formulated by the Ministry under the 20 Point Programme;

(b) the programmes that have been implemented currently in the 20 point programme in different States;

(c) the Central financial assistance given to each of these programmes;

(d) which of the States have during the last two years progressed well and those which are finding it difficult with reasons therefor; and

(e) the targets fixed for 1983?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Integrated Child Development Services Programme under 15th Point of 20 Point Programme.

(c) Expenditure on Supplementary Nutrition is borne by the State Governments. Expenditure on other items is borne by the Government of India.

(d) The 320 Integrated Child Development Services projects sanctioned after the announcement of the new 20-point programme are in the process of being launched and hence no inter-state grading has been done so far.

(e) 320 Projects during 1982-83.

Heavy toll in North Eastern region due to a new fever

2370. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a new fever which according to doctors is a combination of Kala-azar and Malaria is taking a heavy toll of people in North Eastern region of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the available medicines are not able to contain this new disease;

(c) whether medical/health experts have been sent to the affected areas to study the disease and the causes for the same;

(d) whether Government contemplate to import any medicine to deal with present situation; and

(e) the number of deaths recorded already?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Development of container handling facilities in ports

2371. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER:

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

(a) whether there has been any improvement in cargo handling operations in the Indian ports;

(b) if so, port-wise details during the last one year;

(c) the port where the increase is only marginal;

(d) whether the revenue of the ports and their capacity utilisation would go up