

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN): (a) and (b). The necessary information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

M/S. AMIN CHAND PYARELAL

3275. SHRI B. K. MODAK :

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7819 on the 19th April, 1968 regarding M/s. Amin Chand Pyarelal and state :

(a) whether Government have filed any statement before the court on the 30th April, 1968;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the next date of hearing ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) and (b). When the case was sent to the Court, a charge-sheet was filed against the accused. This being a criminal case, there is no question of the Government filing a further statement. However, whenever any points are raised by the accused, necessary action is taken by the prosecution. The case is now *sub-judice* and the result of trial may be awaited.

(c) The next date of hearing is the 21st August, 1968.

"S. S. VISHVA SHANTI"

3276. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that "S. S. Vishva Shanti" met with a disaster near a Rumanian Port and a departmental enquiry was constituted to enquire into the causes of its disintegration;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to obviate repetition of similar cases ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) to (c). "S. S. Vishva Shanti" while approaching the Rumanian Port of Constantza ran

a ground on 1st March, 1968 as a result of which most of the cargo and the ship were a total loss. An on-the-spot preliminary inquiry into the shipping casualty was conducted. A formal investigation under Section 360 read with Section 362 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 has been ordered. The findings of the Court are awaited.

FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS

3277. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are not co-operating with the Department of Tourism at the Centre with regard to improving facilities for tourists;

(b) if so, the difficulties of States in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to convene a Conference of the representatives of State Tourism Departments for evolving common codes of procedure and a coordinated programme for the development of tourist facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). It is always possible to improve working co-operation and every effort is being made towards this end.

(c) The Tourist Development Council, a forum where matters relating to tourism are discussed and a co-ordinated approach worked out, has been in existence for the last 12 years. Its membership includes all State Ministers incharge of Tourism, and it meets once a year under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Tourism.

ALL-INDIA POLICE FORCE FOR TOURISTS PROTECTION

3278. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI B. N. SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate All-India Police Force is being constituted for the protection of tourists and for obviating harassment to them by beggars and others; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof and the financial cost involved ?