

**Safety procedure prescribed for shipping companies**

\*450 SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Shipping Companies operating within the country are not following the safety procedure prescribed by Government ; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure that safety procedures are followed by such shipping companies ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :

(a) Some cases have recently come to notice where repairs required under the safety rules under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 have been avoided by the shipping companies.

(b) Instructions have been issued to Director General (Shipping), Bombay to ensure that the safety clauses in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and rules made thereunder are strictly enforced. Any ship not satisfying the safety requirements shall be detained by the surveyor of the Director General (Shipping). Classification Societies to whom survey work has been delegated have also been told to ensure that safety requirements are fully met.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : These safety measures are observed more in breach by the shipping companies. Very recently during the last Session, we discussed about missing ships, Nitya Nanak and Nitya Ray. The shipping companies have no regard for the safety measures. They are criminally negligent towards this rule. With the connivance of the officers concerned of the Shipping Department or the Merchant Department, these ship-owners are playing a fraud on the lives of the public. They are cheating the public. For nearly five months, we have not heard even about the debris of these missing ships. 34 innocent lives were lost.

May I ask the hon. Minister how many cases of avoidance of safety rules have been brought to the notice of the

Government and what action has been taken by the Government, how many ships have been detained, and whether these ships have all undergone sea-worthiness ? The hon. Minister may kindly reply to that.

SHRI BANSI LAL : For cases of our country ships and one from abroad, five cases have come to our notice. Four were sent and one is held up. We are trying our level best to enforce the rules and we have issued strict instructions to follow the rules in future.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Before a ship is made sea-worthy, they have to obtain for certificates from the authorities concerned, Safety Construction Certificate, Safety Equipment Certificate, Load line Certificate and Radio Telegraphy Certificate. The House is aware that with regard to the missing ships, there was no radio contact at all for five weeks.

Mr. SPEAKER : You are talking about those ships, two ships which we discussed on the floor of the House. That has been done.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : What happened is, the officials are callous. It is the duty of the particular officers of the Shipping Department to see that before a ship is made sea-worthy and before they issue the certificate, they should see that the ship is sea-worthy. What happen is, in collusion with the shipping companies they go on extending the life of the certificates. That is how it has happened. Such things should be avoided.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps are you going to enforce in the safety rules. Are you going to bring stricter rules ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : We have issued instructions to strictly follow the rules.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : The hon. Minister for Shipping Shri Z.R. Ansari himself admitted that Forward Seimens Union brought it to the notice of the Shipping Ministry that M.V. Nityaram and M.V. Nityananak were leaking but

the Ministry did not pay any heed to this allegation. Now I have come to know from the Union that M.V. Ratnakirti which is sailing towards Rumania is leaking. Will the hon. Minister inquire into this allegation that M.V. Ratnakirti which is sailing towards Rumania is leaking?

MR. SPEAKER : Have you sent the complaint ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Inquiry into the missing of the ships is being conducted.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad...

[Translation]

I thought you wanted to say something because you had raised your hand.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That was my hand, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that, where the safety arrangements fail and there are some victims among the passengers who are travelling by the ship which is sinking, they provide some relief and some insurance arrangement is done. Is it not a fact that some gross cases of gross misuse of this also have taken place? Is it not a fact that Jain Vanaspati proprietors in collusion with some of the insurance agents had actually put 10,000 barrels on the ship claiming that it was oil but actually filling up water into those barrels and then manipulated to see that the ships were sunk near the shores of Burma and Ceylon, and after doing that, is it not a fact, they made the claim from the insurance company? Is it not a fact that that the matter was raised in this House by me and is it not a fact that the Minister gave an assurance that they would deal with the case very firmly? In case you have dealt with this case firmly on the basis of what your predecessor had informed me, I want to know what concrete steps have been taken.

SHRI BANSI LAL : This does not arise out of this Question.

MR. SPEAKER : You may inform him later on. That was raised, and I was also of the opinion that that must be taken care of. Please inform him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Minister, the Speaker has given a direction. Kindly obey the direction.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Okay.

Representation from Kerala Government regarding wharfage charges on food materials

\*452 PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala Government has represented to the Union Government that the wharfage charges on food materials imported under World Food Programme should be at a concessional rate as in the case of materials supplied under CARE ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to extend the same concession as being allowed on items under other bilateral agreements to imports under W.F.P. Scheme and instructions have been issued to all Major Ports.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I thank the hon. Minister for taking a favourable decision. But I would humbly point out that, even though decisions are taken, there is a great delay in implementation. In this House we have passed the Bonus (Amendment) Act, but the workers in the Cochin Port and the DLB have not yet been given bonus. When an enquiry was made, they said that it had not yet been intimated to the concerned authorities. May I humbly request the hon. Minister to see that the instructions are given to the Cochin Port authorities to implement