

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

the decision that he has taken now and also the decision about the Bonus (Amendment) Act ?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** Instructions have been issued on 13th December itself.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He wants them to be implemented.

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** They will be implemented.

**States Covered under village health guide scheme**

**\*455. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) names of the States which have been covered under Village Health Guide Scheme;

(b) the names of the States which are likely to be covered under this scheme during the current year; and

(c) the allocation made to Orissa for implementing this scheme in 1983-84 ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) :** (a) and (b) Village Health Guide Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at covering the entire country. This Scheme has been accepted by all States except the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) During 1983-84, against an allocation of Rs. 284.00 lakhs an amount of Rs. 315.00 lakhs was released to Orissa for the implementation of this Scheme.

**SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** May I know from the Hon. Minister what are the qualifications, experience and training of these village health guides ?

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** The village health guide is a community volunteer, preferably a lady. She should have passed the 6th standard and she should be acceptable to the community.....

(Interruptions)

Acceptable in the sense that she should have a social service background. The training component consists of 200 hours of training given at the PHC level and the community volunteer is trained in treating minor ailments. They are also trained in family welfare, emergency health care education, immunisation, nutrition and a host of related subjects.

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW :** May I know from the Hon. Minister the allocation made to West Bengal for implementing this scheme in the year 1983-84 ?

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** A total of Rs. 55 crores is set apart this year for the implementation of this scheme. The statewide allocation is, for West Bengal, Rs. 419 lakhs this year.

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW :** What is the amount spent by the West Bengal State Government out of this allocation ?

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Exhausted already.

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW :** Let us see whether it is exhausted or not.

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** I do not have the exact figure of disbursement. But this is the amount we have earmarked for West Bengal this year.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** The allowance paid to the village health guide is a paltry amount i.e., Rs. 50 per month. Is there any proposal to increase the allowance which is paid to the village workers from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 minimum ? This has been fixed two years back.

**SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** The village health guide scheme has been implemented as a part of the national health policy for mobilising village health volunteers. They are not expected to be Government servants and Rs. 50 is a sort of allowance given to them for out of pocket expenses. Already a sizeable amount of our resources is being spent for this-scheme. There is no proposal whatsoever to increase this allowance.