

(SAIL) have in consultation with their principal Consultant, M/s Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants India Limited (MECON), short-listed tenderers against various packages of work.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The product range of Durgapur Steel Plant will remain unaltered after modernisation. SAIL have undertaken an exercise to ensure rationalisation of the staff and redeployment of manpower to suit new technologies under modernisation.

[*Translation*]

Attack on Indian Ship In Gulf

*97. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently an Indian Oil ship was attacked in the Persian Gulf;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have assessed the loss caused by this incident; and

(d) if so, whether Government have preferred its claims with the concerned Government for payment of compensation for the loss of life and property caused due to this incident ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 2-10-87 the Indian Ship MT 'SPIC EMERALD' was attacked by a gun boat while on voyage from Al-Jubail to Dubai damaging the ships side. No loss of life or injury to any person is reported. However the vessel reached Dubai on its own power.

(c) The financial loss as initially reported by the owners is assessed as U.S. Dollar

50,000/-. Final estimate of cost would be available only after vessel is dry docked.

(d) As the identity of the attackers could not be finally established no claims etc. could be preferred.

[*English*]

Damage to Railway Tracks due to floods in Bihar

*98. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRI LALITESHVAR PRASAD
SHAHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to unprecedented floods in Bihar recently, the railway tracks between Madhubani, Jhajharpur, Nirmali and Lauksbi have been badly damaged;

(b) whether Union Government have received several representations for their repair;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) when the tracks will be completely repaired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Restoration work was taken up by the N. E. Railway on a war-footing and the traffic restored expeditiously on all the effected sections, except the 2 branch line sections, Sakri-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazaar where the restoration work was hampered due to prolongation of the flood conditions, including occurrence of fresh floods during October, 1987. Restoration works on both these sections are now in good progress and these are expected to be completed within this month (November, 1987).