

some "skinheads" at a True station in the afternoon of 5th July. His injury was very minor. In addition, there have also been some incidents of some stones being thrown on the houses of High Commission of India Officials.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) All these cases have been brought to the notice of the British Government at various levels in London and in New Delhi.

(f) and (g). The responsibility for safeguarding the life and property of the peoples settled in U.K. is that of the U.K. Government. The British authorities have assured the Indian High Commission that they would do their utmost to safeguard the life and property of Indians in U.K.

Combination carrier "Vallabhbhai Patel" looted by Pirates

*69. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that a combination carrier "Vallabhbhai Patel" going to Japan from Visakhapatnam, was looted by pirates when it was passing through the Philip channel, off Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the information received from Shipping Corporation of India, a robbery took place on the vessel while she was transiting about 9-10 miles away from Singapore Port through Philip Channel, Singapore straits on 16.8.81 at 21.30 hrs. Singapore time. The facts of the case are that three armed robbers boarded the vessel using lines with

hooks while she was steaming at full speed. They came unnoticed straight on the Captain's Deck and entered the Captain's cabin. They demanded the keys of the safe and, on not finding the same, they took off the jewellery from the Master's wife and ransacked the cabin cupboard for money and valuables. They were armed with long knives and samurais. They took all the personal currency of the Master.

2. Two of the robbers went to Chief Officer's cabin where the Chief Officer, his wife and the Chief Steward were sitting. They threatened them and took off the wedding ring and wrist watch from the Chief Officer's wife. They ransacked their cupboards and took all their personal cash.

3. The following items were taken away by the robbers: From Captain's Cabin:

(A) Gold Jewellery 40 Gms

(B) One wrist watch

(C) Currency : U.S. Dollars 500

K. Dinars 30

D. Marks 150

D. Guilders 310

Indian Rupees 200

From Chief Officer's Cabin

(A) Gold Ring 10 Gms

(B) Seiko Quartz Ladies wrist Watch

(C) Currency :

U. S. Dollars 200

Indian Rupees 200

The loss in Indian rupees currency on account of the entire property taken away by robbers is estimated at about Rs. 12,000/- Immediately on their leaving his cabin, the Chief Officer informed the Master on the Bridge. After taking necessary precautions, a thorough search was made but no one was found. The Master contacted Singapore Marine Police and passed on to them all the details. They could not, however, do much at that time. The Master then sent a mes-

sage to Singapore agents of the Shipping Corporation of India and the Head Office in Bombay regarding the incident. The Shipping Corporation of India office in Singapore took up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs and also informed the Indian High Commission at Singapore. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore have informed Shipping Corporation of India that their Marine Police only patrol within the Singapore territorial waters and do not go into international waters and that the Marine Police did not respond to the Master's report of robbery as the vessel was continuing her voyage to Japan and was not scheduled to stop at Singapore. They have also added that, if Marine Police protection is sought it would be admissible only for ships calling at Singapore to anchor within Singapore Port limits

The Government have asked the Shipping Corporation of India to investigate the matter and send detailed report to the Government. The report is awaited.

Protection of new Moore Island

*70. SHRI A. T. PATIL:
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the permanent steps taken by the Government of India to safeguard Indian Territory in New Moore-Island;

(b) what damage did Bangladesh gun-boats and other such acts of Bangladesh cause to India; and

(c) what was the intensity and impact of attacks on Indian Embassy in Dacca and action taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). While Bangladesh naval vessels have been in the vicinity of New Moore Island during the past few months, their gunboats

have not caused any damage to Indian territory. The Government have taken all necessary steps to safeguard Indian territory.

(c) Following the publicity given to New Moore Island in the Bangladesh media there were some demonstrations outside the Indian High Commission at Dacca after the 17th May. The Indian High Commission requested the Bangladesh Government to issue suitable instructions to the concerned agencies to ensure proper protection to the Indian High Commission and Indian public sector organisations, and the offices and residences of the Assistant High Commission at Chittagong and Rajshahi. Excepting for some damage to the Indian Airlines office, the Bangladesh Government have so far provided the necessary protection.

Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan

*71. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is satisfied with the outcome of his talks with the Pakistani leaders during his recent visit to Pakistan;

(b) whether there has been any determination in the relations between India and Pakistan since his visit to Pakistan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any firm dates have been fixed for the visit of the Pakistani Foreign Minister to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) In the context of the limited objectives we had set for