

**Cargo Vessel Primerose Registered in Panama**

\*496. SHRI MONORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI BAGUN SUBRUI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cargo vessel named Primerose registered in Panama was agrounded near Sentinel Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in the recent past, if so, the details thereof;

(b) details whether the vessel was agrounded on its route or out of the route; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the vessel informed a Singapore Company for salvage arrangement without intimation to the Government of India, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

The vessel Primerose of Panamian flag sailed from the Port of Chalna in Bangla Desh on 31-7-1981 at 700 hrs. G.M.T. for Freemantle, Australia. Weather conditions from the time the vessel left Chalna were very unfavourable and it was not possible to establish any position due to celestial objects being obscured. On 2-8-1981 the weather was exceptionally bad and it was raining continuously. The use of radar did not indicate any presence of land. No position was possible throughout the day. At 1740 hrs. G.M.T. the ship made contact with an unobserved object which was later found to be an island and the ship was grounded on the reef surrounding it. The position as as-

certained is that the vessel had grounded at North Sentinel Island of Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands.

The salvage company "Smith International Line (East Asia)" had already signed the LLOYDS Salvage Agreement with the owners of Primerose authorising them the sole right for salvage of the ship. As the Primerose is a wreck within Indian Territorial waters the salvage company/owners asked its agents to contact the Indian Government for permission to salvage. The vessel being abandoned, the wreck has been taken possession of by Harbour Master, Port Blair.

**Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga Line**

\*496. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:  
SHRI HARINATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps for actual conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga metre gauge line have been taken since the Railway Minister inaugurated the same early this year;

(b) whether survey for conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar line was completed before 30th June, 1981; and

(c) if so, details thereabout and actual steps taken for conversion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) An allotment of Rs. 50 lakhs for conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga has been made during 1981-82. The work has been inaugu-