

**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-

rated on 19-4-1981. Nucleus field staff have been posted and tenders for earthwork, cement godowns & stores have been invited. The field work will commence shortly.

(b) and (c) A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for conversion of Darbhanga-Sakri-Jayanagar section from MG to BG (68 kms.) is in progress. The field work for this survey is expected to be completed by 30-6-1982. The report is expected to be compiled and submitted by September 1982. The matter would be examined on receipt of the report and if found viable the project would be undertaken for construction subject to clearance and allotment of funds by the Planning Commission.

#### Unauthorised Entry of Bangladesh into New Moore Island

\*497. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA SINGH RAWAT:

SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action taken by the Government in the context of efforts of the Bangladesh authorities to have unauthorised entry into the New Moore Island?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): There was some increase of Bangladesh naval activity in the vicinity of New Moore Island some time ago. As I had informed the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 774 on August 20, 1981 the two Governments were in touch on this issue through diplomatic channels. We hope to settle this issue by bilateral discussions as agreed between the Bangladesh F.M. and myself in August, 1980 and reiterated during the recently, concluded talks from September 11-13, 1981 at New Delhi. The Joint Press Statement issued at the end of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit states that both countries have agreed to early talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries to ex-

mine all available data and report to the Foreign Ministers for further necessary steps to be taken with a view to an early and peaceful resolution of this problem.

#### Death due to Cholera in Capital

\*498. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI LAXMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cholera has claimed many lives of babies and others in Jaiprakash Narain Hospital and other hospitals in the capital;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported; and

(c) the causes of the epidemic and steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). 9 premature babies died in Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Hospital, in New Delhi between 12th—19th August, 1981 of cholera and other inter-current infections. In addition, 5 deaths took place in September, 1981 in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Kingsway Camp out of 416 cases admitted in that hospital on account of gastro-enterities-cholera.

(c) There is no epidemic of cholera in 1981 and the total incidence of cases and deaths upto 31-8-1981 is less than in the corresponding period in the last year. Immediate measures have been taken to control incidence of such infection, specially in the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Hospital

#### Linking Education with development

\*499. SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state: