

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 161

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): In the supplementaries to Starred Question No. 161, answered in the Lok Sabha on the 19th July, 1957, regarding the procurement of steel, the following question was put by the Speaker:

"The question is whether this arrangement that the Railways have made to purchase all its steel applies to other requirements also or only a few items specially needed."

My answer to the question has been recorded as follows in the proceedings:

"It applies to iron and steel. Now, it is no longer a question of Commerce and Industry Ministry because the Iron and Steel Controller is under the Steel Ministry. That is different."

2. The correct position is that the Ministry of Railways is responsible for work relating to the procurement, by imports, of only certain specified items, viz. Rails (Track quality), Rails for points and crossings, Steel Sleepers including those for crossings, Fishplates and Bearing plates. The work relating to other items is now being dealt with in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

STATEMENT REGARDING SINK- ING OF 'WORLD SPLENDOUR'

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I regret to inform the Sabha that fourteen Indian Seamen have perished as a result of explosion on Board the Tanker s.s. "World Splendour" of Liberian Registry, owned by Messrs. Niarchos (London) Ltd. The accident took place on the 20th August some 60 miles east of Gibraltar when there were a number of serious explosions on board the ship. There were 56 Indian Seamen

serving on the board at the time, of which 14 lost their lives; 3 others who sustained injuries were hospitalised in Gibraltar. One of the injured seamen has since been discharged from the hospital and repatriated, along with the rest of the survivors, to Bombay, from which port they were all recruited.

The dependents of the deceased seamen, as well as the injured and the other repatriated survivors will be entitled to compensation according to rules.

No information as to the cause of the explosion is available so far except what has been stated by the survivors who have arrived in India, namely, that there were three explosions on board the ship one after the other when a tank was opened for cleaning purposes. It is said that there was heavy wind at that time. The Shipping Master is in contact with the owners Agents in this connection

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

FIRST REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda):
I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the First Report of the Committee of Privileges laid on the Table on the 12th September, 1957."

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East): I, of course, support the motion. I want to call the attention of the House and the country to the summons which has been issued to you by the Additional District Magistrate of Tiruchirappalli. It has been recommended in the report that when some documents in the custody of the House is to be called for in court, it should be by way of petitioning the House. That is a reasonable and proper proposition. What I wish to call the attention of the country, and particularly of judicial officer, is the language of authority in which the summons has been addressed, as set out in Appendix A, which should not be issued to any