

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1989 | 18th
 Sravana, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF 'QUIT INDIA' MOVEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, 9th August, that is today is a very historic and momentous day in the freedom struggle of our country. It was on this day in 1942 that Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, gave the call "Quit India" to the British Government. The whole nation responded to the call of Gandhiji and participated in the movement with single-minded commitment and dedication, which culminated in our achieving independence five years later. Today is the day of thanks-giving and dedication, a day of remembrance and reverence. We pay our humble and respectful homage to all those martyrs who gave their lives and to all those who suffered untold sufferings for the cause of Independence. I would request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs and freedom fighters.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.]

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): What about Bharat Bachhao day?

HOMAGE TO ATOM BOMB VICTIMS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I also refer to the holocaust that shook mankind the world over 44 years ago. The dreaded atom bomb was dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan on the 6th and 9th August, 1945, killing and maiming

lakhs of innocent people and leaving behind a trail of suffering, misery and destruction. I pray these tragic incidents will never be repeated again and I would request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the bomb victims.

[Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steamer Service between Bombay and Goa

*321. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume Bombay-Goa steamer service;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to permit private operator to ply steamers on this route; and

(c) whether any applications have been received by Government for licence for ships/hovercraft/hydrofoil to ply on this route and if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Government have no proposal to resume the steamer service. Their policy is to encourage private operators to ply on the route.

(c) Four applications were received.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, I understand that these two steamers which were plying between Bombay and Goa "Konkan Shakti" and "Konkan Shevak" are on a special mission in national interest. But I would like the hon. Minister to reconsider his proposal and see that when this mission is over, the steamers are put back on this route