

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The requisite information is being obtained from the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the same, along with the reactions of the Government thereon, will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

Maintenance of G.T. Road between Nigsa to Kulti in West Bengal

1241. SHRI DIPENDRABHUSAN GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alarmingly bad condition of the National Highway, G.T. Road between Nigsa to Kulti in West Bengal resulting in total collapse of transport system in this vital coal belt area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to very heavy traffic plying, the portion of the road from the old Barakar bridge to the take off point of the approach to the new Barakar bridge needs repairs from time to time. This is being attended to maintain it in traffic worthy condition. It is not correct that bad condition has resulted in total collapse of the transport system. The existing bridge over river Barakar being old, narrow and weak, a new bridge has been recently opened to traffic providing further relief to traffic and cutting out delays.

Unemployment allowance to Indian Seamen

1242. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken for providing unemployment allowance to Indian Seamen from 'Sign-Off' to 'Sign-On' period?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): Seafarer's Welfare Fund Society was operating a scheme for the grant of financial assistance to needy seamen at Rs. 10 per day during periods of involuntary unemployment after the expiry of initial off-entitlement period calculated at ten days for every month of articulated service. Assistance was admissible initially for a maximum of 90 days which was later reduced to 60 days. The scheme was operated by the Society out of voluntary contributions from Shipowners at Rs. 35 per job per month made to the Society from 1-4-78. The scheme was discontinued by the Society with effect from 1-9-1980 at the instance of National Maritime Board, a bilateral body of Seafarers Unions and Shipowners, as they contemplate operating a modified scheme for unemployment relief to seamen themselves bilaterally which may provide for better and higher benefits.

Unemployment among the registered Seamen

1243. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the number of unemployed persons among the registered seamen in India, Port wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): Seamen are registered only at Bombay and Calcutta. They are normally employed on board Ships on the basis of each voyage through a roster system. There is, thus, necessarily a waiting period involved

between two successive engagements. Registration of seamen at 150 per cent of the total number of available jobs, it is considered, should provide reasonable unemployment opportunities to seamen without an undue period of waiting. The existing position at Bombay and Calcutta is, however, as follows

Port	Total No. of registered seamen	Total No. of jobs
Bombay	23,835	14,522
Calcutta	10,285	4,508

Abolition of casual employment to registered Indian seamen

1244. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of registered Indian seamen had been kept as casual labourers for a long time during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the abolition of system of casual labour, and guaranteeing employment for Indian seamen throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Indian seamen are not employed on permanent basis by Shipping Companies except in certain specialised categories. Employment of registered seamen is regulated through Director, Seamen Employment Office, Bombay and Calcutta and Employment to Seamen is given on the basis of Roster system.

(b) An Expert Committee has been appointed to study *inter-alia* the Unemployment problem among Indian seamen and suggest remedial measures.

Complaint against denial of amenities to serving seamen crew of M V "Vishva Bhakti"

1245. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaint of shabby treatment towards the serving seamen crew of M.V. "Vishva Bhakti" by the Shipping master, by depriving them of the legitimate facilities like food, drinking water, medical aid etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that all the amenities and facilities are provided to the serving seamen during their voyage?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). In May, 1981, when the vessel was at outer anchorage in Bombay, some trouble arose regarding cooking of food during the sickness of the deck Bhandary. The Deputy Shipping Master, Bombay went on board the vessel and enquired into the matter. It was found that food was supplied to the crew. He advised the master of the ship and company's representative to provide all legitimate facilities without giving cause for complaint.

Functioning of the South Western Circle of Archaeological Survey of India

1246. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the special news item in Daily "Tarun Bharat" Pune (Maharashtra) dated the 8th August, 1980 regarding the negligence on the part of the Archaeological Survey of India especially the South