

(b) The total price of the above two ships in US \$ is 39.50 lakh approximately.

(c) The ore carrier has already been taken delivery of by the company. The liner vessel was expected to be delivered in the middle of April 1980 but has not been taken delivery of so far by the company.]

Railway Board

1055. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri K. S. Ramaswamy, a Member of the Railway Board, has been asked to go on leave; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No. The Officer has proceeded on medical leave.

Persecution of Indians in Iran

1056. SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information regarding the persecution of non-Muslim minorities like Hindus and Sikhs in Iran; and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether life and property of any Indian or Iranian citizen of Indian origin has also been affected; and if so, what are the details of such cases;

(c) whether there has been also damage to various places of worship like Sikh gurudwaras; and

(d) whether Government of India has lodged any protest with the Government of Iran in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Two cases of seizure of property of Indian nationals in Iran have come to the notice of the Government. Our Embassy in Tehran has taken up this matter with the concerned authorities.

(c) No, Sir.

Laying of double railway line between Madras—Rameshwaram Section of Southern Railway

1057. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the heavy rush of pilgrims on the Madras—Rameshwaram Section of Southern Railway, Government propose to lay the double railway line between the two stations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey to assess the requirements of line capacity on the Madras-Villupuram section is in progress and further action can be taken only after the Survey is completed and the report examined. The capacity available on the section Villupuram-Rameshwaram is considered adequate to meet the traffic requirements.

DTC bus stands without shelter

1058. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state: