

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM: Sir, I would like to ask Mr. Advani to clarify something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. That is over. I have already called the next Question.

*66. [The questioner (Shri F. M. Khan) was absent. For answer, vide col. 35 infra.]

*67. [The questioner (Shri Prasenjit Barman) was absent. For answer vide col. 35 infra.]

Shipping service to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*68. SHRI JAGAN NATH
BHARDWAJ:

SHRI LALBUAIA:

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD

SHAHI: f SHRI SANAT KUMAR

RAHA:

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the shipping service now operating between the mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is in adequate to meet the requirements of the residents of the Islands;

(b) what is the number of ships at present operating between Calcutta and Port Blair and between Madras and Port Blair and what is their frequency;

(c) whether Government have made any survey regarding the passenger and cargo traffic between Calcutta and Port Blair and between Madras and Port Blair; if so, what are the details of such traffic for the last three years, yearwise;

(d) whether Government have asked the Andaman and Nicobar Adminis-

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nageshwar Prasad Shahi.

tration to assess their requirements of shipping service between the Islands and the mainland; if so, what are the details of the assessment made; and

i.e) what steps Government propose to take to increase the frequency of shipping service between the mainland and the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM* 'af+o (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Shipping Service between Mainland and Andaman and Nicobar is adequate to meet the requirements of the Islanders.

(b) The following ships are operating between the Mainland and the Islands:

Name of Vessel	Frequency of Sailing (Days)
<i>Passenger-cum-cargo Ships</i>	
M.V. Andamans	12/14
M.V. Harsha Vardhara	12/13
<i>Cargo Vessels</i>	
M.V. Shompen	35/40
M.V. Diglipur	40/45

Generally, out of the two regular passenger-cum-cargo vessels, one operates between Madras and Port Blair and the other between Calcutta and Port Blair. Employment of these vessels is interchanged, depending upon the requirements of Andaman Administration. During vacation period from May to July, an additional vessel M. V. 'Nancowry' is employed between Madras and Port Blair.

The two cargo vessels M.V. 'Shom-pen' and M.V. 'Diglipur' mostly operate from Port Blair and other Islands to Vizag and Madras. Calls to Calcutta are limited because of delays involved there due to drafts, bore-tides and other port restrictions.

(c) Government have not conducted any specific survey regarding passenger and cargo traffic separately between Calcutta and Port Blair and between Madras and Port Blair.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) For increasing the frequency of service between Mainland and the Islands, following steps have been taken:

(i) The old vessel "State of Har-yana" has been replaced in 1976 by a faster and modern vessel "Harsha-vardhana". Due to faster speed streaming period has been brought down from four days to 2½ to 3 days.

(ii) During vacation period (May to July) frequency of sailing is stepped up by employing an additional vessel.

(iii) By minimising port stay and restricting loading of cargo, frequency of passenger-cum- cargo vessels is increased when necessary.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, जो स्टेटमेंट रखा गया है, उसमें प्रकट है कि "अण्डमान" और "हर्षवर्धन" दो जहाज मुशकिलों को दौरे के लिये काम करते हैं मगर तथ्य यह है कि "अण्डमान" इतना पुराना हो गया है कि वह हमेशा खराब रहता है और हमेशा रिपेयरिंग में रहता है केवल एक जहाज "हर्षवर्धन" है जो कलकत्ता से अण्डमान और मद्रास से अण्डमान जाता है। एक जहाज इतने बड़े ट्रिफिक को कैसे सम्भाल सकता है? इसके कारण वहाँ के निवासियों को भारी तकलीफ और दिक्कत होती है। इसलिये क्या मंत्री जो इस बात का प्रयास करेंगे और यह आश्वासन देंगे कि एक नया जहाज वहाँ पर यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिये प्रदान किया जाये?

श्री चांद राम : मैं माननीय सदस्य को इस बात को मानता हूँ। यह जहाज 1957 में खरीदा गया था और अब यह पुराना हो 1904 RS—2.

चुका है इसका बजट में प्राविजन कर दिया गया है। यह धन रिप्लेस कर दिया जायेगा।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मेरे सवाल के जवाब में मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्वीकार कर लिया है कि वह पुराना हो गया है और दूसरा खरीदा जायेगा। इससे कोई हल नहीं निकलता। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप कोई नया जहाज देने को तैयार हैं, ताकि वहाँ के जो लोग हैं जो कि 20-20 दिन टिकट लेकर बैठे रहते हैं परन्तु कोई जहाज नहीं मिलता, उन लोगों की सुविधा के लिये कुछ करेंगे या नहीं करेंगे? उस टापू के लोग जो कि इतने अलग हैं, उनके लिये जहाज उपलब्ध करायेंगे या नहीं?

श्री चांद राम : जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि "अण्डमान" जहाज को रिप्लेस किया जायेगा और अण्डमान एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन से प्रार्थना की गई है कि वह बजट प्राविजन में इस बारे में आवश्यक व्यवस्था रखे और एस० सी० आई० से कहा गया है कि वह नया जहाज खरीदे।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मंत्री जी हवाई जहाज से उड़ते हैं, इसलिये उन्हें दूसरे आम आदमियों की कठिनाइयों का अहसास नहीं हो रहा है। वहाँ के लोगों की कठिनाई यह है कि अण्डमान में हजारों आदमी नौकरी करते हैं, उनको छुट्टियों में आना पड़ता है, यदि कोई बीमार पड़ जाता है तो वहाँ पर चिकित्सा की अच्छी सुविधाएँ न होने के कारण यहाँ आना पड़ता है। इसलिये क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी ताकि तुरन्त जहाज की व्यवस्था हो सके? यहाँ पर कहा गया कि वह प्रयत्न करेंगे, बजट में यह वह होगा। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप यह करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं?

श्री चांद राम : अब जो कायदे-कानून का तरीका है वह तो इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। उनको कहा है कि बजट में प्राविजन करें। एस० सी० आई० को भी कहा है कि नये जहाज

देखें। जब वे इस बात का फैसला कर लें तो खरीद लें। लेकिन इस वक्त पैसेजर यूटीलाईजेशन को देखें तो यह 79 से 85% है। कारगो के विषय में यह आईलैंड से मेन लैंड को सेंट-परसेंट है और मेन लैंड से आईलैंड को 25 से 54% है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS To QUESTIONS

Chances available to a person to appear in the Clerical Grade Examination

*66. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of chances available to a person for appearing in the tests conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for the clerical grade; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase these chances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Two chances are given to persons for appearing in the Clerks' Grade Examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for recruitment to the Lower Division Grade of the Central Secretariat Clerical Service and other allied Services from the open market.

(b) No. Sir

Grant of Indian citizenship to Bangladesh evacuees

*67. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to recognise and grant Indian citizenship

to those Bangladesh evacuees who came to India in 1971 and have not so far returned to Bangladesh; and

(b) whether Government propose to extend the right of citizenship to those Bangladesh evacuees also who came to India after 1971 and would like to settle in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) Under the existing policy, such persons, who came to India after 25th March, 1971 and have not so far returned to Bangladesh, are not being considered for grant of Indian citizenship. The problem has, however, been under constant review.

Chief Ministers' Conference for discussing law and order situation

*69. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convene a Conference of the Chief Ministers to discuss the law and order situation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) In the meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Home Affairs held on 19th January 1978, a suggestion was made for convening a conference of Chief Ministers to discuss the law and order situation in the country. It is under consideration.