

ping Corporation known as the Western Shipping Corporation (Private) Ltd., Bombay, has already been set up. It was registered in Bombay on 22nd June 1956.

(b) and (d). The Corporation is expected to acquire some 12 vessels during the Second Plan period for running regular shipping services in the India-Persian Gulf India-Red Sea and India-Poland routes.

(c) The authorised capital is Rs. 10 crores but the paid-up capital will be Rs. 3.5 crores for the time being.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the public be allowed to purchase shares in this Corporation?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Government said that the idea of opening this line was that it would be a paying concern. If it is so, what is the amount that they would earn? What is the percentage of profit that they would get?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir. Government have undertaken to bear the loss for the first five years as we have done in the case of the Eastern Shipping Corporation with the proviso that this will be made up when profits are made in later years.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know the average tonnage of the ships that are proposed to be put on these lines?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have given the number of vessels that are to be put on the routes.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I want to know the average tonnage per ship.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It will be anything between 8,000 to 10,000 tons per ship.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: How much will each ship cost?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: More than a crore of rupees.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: How will the sum of Rs. 3.5 crores be sufficient for purchasing all the ships required on that route, quite apart from the working expenses?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is a good cross-examination.

I have said, in answer to (c) that the paid-up capital will be Rs. 3.5 crores for the time being and if more capital is needed, we will approach Parliament and get sanction.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether the ships that will be purchased will be new or second-hand or they will be constructed at the Visakhapatnam Shipyard?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I did not quite follow the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to purchase new ships? Are you going to purchase second-hand ships or, are you going to construct them at Visakhapatnam? That is the question.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We may resort to all these, Sir.

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS DUE TO DEFECTS IN RAILWAY BRIDGES

\*317. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway accidents which occurred due to defects in railway bridges in each of the last five years; and

(b) the extent of loss of life and damage to property as a result of such accidents in each of the above years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it not a fact that the bridge at Jangaon collapsed due to the fact that it was not designed to carry that traffic? Has not the Jangaon Accident Enquiry Committee pointed out the fact that that particular bridge was not designed to carry such stress?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Where is it, Sir?

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Jangaon in Hyderabad.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: The hon. Minister has forgotten that already.

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** There the cause was different. It was not due to any defect in the bridge but the floods washed away the pier which caused the bridge to sink.

**SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** Is it not a fact that the Jangaon Accident Enquiry Committee had pointed out that that bridge was not designed to bear so much of stress?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** I do not have the Report before me just now but as far as the information with me goes, the accident occurred not due to any defect in the bridge itself but due to heavy floods which washed away the piers of the bridge.

**SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** Is it not a fact that the Committee had recommended that all the bridges between Kazipet and Hyderabad should be renovated in view of the fact that they were not designed for this purpose?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** I am again unable to answer on this point because I do not have the exact contents of the Report before me now.

**DR. P. C. MITRA:** Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the overbridge at Beliaghata collapsed?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Does he refer to the footbridge, Sir?

**DR. P. C. MITRA:** I want to know whether recently the overbridge at the Beliaghata Railway Station collapsed?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He says that he has nothing to do with overbridges.

**SHRI H. C. DASAPPA:** May I know whether there are any bridges with defects on which trains are run very slow?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** "Are there any bridges with ascertained defects on which the trains are made to run very slowly?"

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Maybe some bridges are under repairs. Work may have been undertaken with regard to particular bridges wherein speed limits might have been imposed but that is very much beyond the scope of this question.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** May I know whether there is any arrangement for periodical testing of the bridges? If so, at the time of the last check-up before the collapse, was this factor about the floods taken into consideration? If it was, with what result?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** All this was gone into by that Committee. Procedure is laid down for the inspection of bridges but after the report of that Committee was received, it was tightened up.

**PROF. HUMAYUN KABIR:** I want to know whether special measures, if any, have been taken regarding the inspection of these bridges and steps taken to strengthen them in view of the fact that much heavier locomotives have been in use for the last two or three years.

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Heavier locomotives are put on these bridges with the full knowledge that the bridges can bear them.

**DR. R. P. DUBE:** When the bridges were constructed, were not they built to stand the stress of the floods? Otherwise, what is the use of constructing bridges?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Put a question.

**DR. W. S. BARLINGAY:** I would put that question, Sir. If a bridge is washed away on account of floods, will it not be called a defect in the bridge?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** The hon. Member is welcome to his opinion.

**PROF. G. RANGA:** Is it not a fact that when the bridges are constructed, this fact has also to be taken into consideration that they can take the strain of the engines?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** The very fact that the bridge stood for so many years and was washed away only recently, shows that all these factors were taken into consideration but there are certain factors which are beyond human control.

#### PURCHASE OF RAIL CARS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

\*318. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state: