

the foreign ships in Calcutta and Haldia Ports and are now unloading some of the articles at Chittagang Port in Bangladesh resulting in seizure of goods worth about a crore at the Bangladesh Dock Yard. If the Government of India and the West Bengal do not make any acceptable arrangement between different Unions of Dock Labour Board and Haldia Port, it appears other foreign ships carrying goods worth crores of rupees will return back unloaded to their own countries. They have already served notices that they cannot wait for more than 2 weeks further. If these ships return that will mean a heavy loss of goods in addition to a considerable amount of freight and demurrage charges. Moreover, imported machinery, equipments and other raw materials required for expansion of small and medium industries and manufacture of electronic and other steel materials will return undelivered resulting in loss of industries in Eastern Region. Most of the industries of Eastern Region who have placed orders for equipments to foreign countries are now under serious situation for want of imported chemicals and modern machineries. Capacity utilisation of small and medium industries have considerably been reduced. Machinery for power plants are also lying loaded in the ships. Delay in delivery of those machineries will mean further power shortage as a result of which economic condition will be in doldrum. Now the Calcutta and Haldia Ports have been practically paralysed, jute goods worth over 50 crores, engineering goods worth over 25 crores and tea worth over 10 crores and other items worth of about Rs. 25 crores are also lying in dockyard. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government to take immediate action in the matter so that hundreds of crores of rupees may not be further wasted. The Chairman of Calcutta Port Trust Shri S. R. Das and

the Deputy Chairman have come to Delhi with the request to Government for declaring emergency in the Port areas and such proposal will further aggravate the situation. It will be advisable if the Union Ministers of Shipping and the Minister for Labour to visit the Ports and make on the spot study and settle the disputes with the Labourer Organisations without further delay.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I wish to raise an important matter. I do not know why your eyes do not turn towards the eastern side of our country. On this matter we have given you notice....

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Prof. Samar Guha, and now.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: How is it that this is not coming up? We have given notice of Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider it.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: For the last 3 weeks or one month Calcutta Railway system is paralysed (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

PROF. SAMAR GUHA: If these things are happening (Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Dr. Subramaniam Swamy. Do not record anything else.

(Interruptions)\*\*

(ii) REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SHIP M. V. ARABA

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): I wish to bring to the kind notice of the members of this august House that the ship MV ARABA is reported to be missing for the last six months along with its master Capt. S. P. Kaparwan and fourteen other Indian crews

\*\*Not recorded.

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy]

and one persons from Sri Lanka. One of the Indian crews is the only son of Shri B. L. Sharma, Secretary-General of the National Government Employees' Confederation (State and Central), Shri Praveen Sharma, Chief Officer of the missing ship

It is understood that the ship sailed from Dubai on 27th August, 1978 for Bombay via Karachi loaded with Iron scrap. It was expected to reach Karachi on 4/5 September, 1978, but it did not. It appears to have disappeared from the sea between the coastal Waters of Dubai and Karachi. According to the Agents of the ship, it might have drifted towards Iranian coast due to engine breakdown and detained there by the Iranian Government probably due to the current internal disturbances going on in the country.

I have come to know that Shri Chand Ram, Hon. Minister of Shipping and Transport, in his D.O. letter No. 5444/MST/78 dated 23-12-78, has intimated to Shri H. N. Bhahuguna, Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals, that this ship along with the Master of the Ship, Capt. Kaparwan, was arrested in one of the Iranian ports for suspected smuggling and all the crew members are reported to be safe and sound.

Another unconfirmed information received by Shri B. L. Sharma, father of Shri Praveen Sharma, the Chief Officer of the ship is that it has been detained at Bunder Kanarak (Lat. 25° 22'N Long. 60° 28'E.) near Chah Bahar. There is also a rumour that the Ship has sunk in Gulf Waters but the crew members are safe. The address of the agents of the ship is as under:-

Captain Harpal Singh Sahi.  
M/s. Ilyas Shipping Ltd.,  
Khorshed Buildings,  
Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road,  
Bombay-400 001.

The owner of the ship is Capt.

Satnam Singh brother of Capt. Harpal Singh Sahi, of M/s. Ilyas Shipping Limited, Bombay.

The mystery of the sudden disappearance of this ship is a surprise to the entire Shipping world. It is now over six months that the families of fifteen Indian and one person from Sri Lanka have been worried and spending sleepless nights in anxiety. The lives of 15 Indian nationals are involved. In addition to this, the mental agony of near and dear relatives of the crew members cannot be imagined by others. In order to mitigate the distress of so many Indian nationals, I appeal to the Government to find out the actual facts about this ship and communicate these to the concerned persons, as early as possible

MR. SPEAKER: No addition, only the approved text.

(iii) REPORTED CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON NURSES IN BASTI TOWN. (UP).

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the House to the reported rape and assault on five Malayali nurses in Basti town of U.P. on 25th February, 1979. This tragic incident is a shocking news to the society and an eye-opener to the deplorable situation prevailing in that area near Indo-Nepal border. On 25th February, 1979, at 10.15 p.m. five persons belonging to a smuggling gang entered the nurses hostel in Basti and wanted to know the whereabouts of two nurses who are alleged to have connections with their rival smuggling gangs. When the nurses told the gangsters that they did not know the whereabouts of the the said nurses, the gangsters started threatening and within a few minutes, five nurses were raped. The watchman of the hostel remained at a distance helplessly because he was threatened by pointing pistols. Though the