

senger service, particularly during summer vacation;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) whether services of chartered vessels Nazed II and Nazed III are disrupted by the Forward Seamen Union at Calcutta; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). There has been some disruption in the sailing schedules due to non-availability of vessels. Out of the four vessels, viz., M.V. Akbar, M.V. Harshavardhana, M.V. NAJD-II and M.V. NAJD-III, the vessel M.V. Akbar has not been available for operation on the mainland-Andaman Sector since May, 1987 due to its diversion for use by Defence Ministry and Haj Pilgrims. Till February, 1990, the other three vessels were available for operation. But in February, 1990, the vessel M.V. Harshavardhana was withdrawn from this sector for use by Indian Navy. Even though this vessel was released by play on 26.3.90, the vessel is at present undergoing statutory Annual Passenger Survey/Dry-docking. Thus, from February 1990, only two chartered vessels M.V. NAJD-II and M.V. NAJD-III are in operation on the mainland-Andaman Service.

(c) and (d). The vessel M.V. Harshavardhana is expected to be available for operation on mainland-Andaman service from end May, 1990. The vessels M.V. NAJD-II is now being released for Annual Passenger Survey/Dry-docking and this vessel is expected to be back by mid-June, 1990. Thus, during most of summer vacation, all the three vessels, i.e. M.V. Harshavardhana, M.V. NAJD-II and M.V. NAJD-III are expected to be available.

(e) and (f). The operation of NAJD-II and NAJD-III has been disrupted by the

Forward Seamon Union of India and the National Union of Seafarers of India on issues relating to engagement of canteen crew on these vessels. FSUI has been agitating for engaging on these vessels canteen crew from Madras who are in possession of Continuous Discharge Certificate or Identity Card issued by the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Madras prior to 31.12.89. As a fall-out of FSUI's hold up, the other Union NUSI also held up these vessels for sometime. Bother the vessels suffered a total detention of 51 days between February and April, 1990. The vessel NAJD-II which was to go for Annual Passenger Survey/Dry-docking, has been held up by FSUI from 22.5.90 at Calcutta, demanding grant of wages for six months for all the thirty four-canteen staff on board the vessel, immediate employment for the balance fourteen CDC/IC holders from the pre-December '89 list and cancellation of ICs issued to canteen staff between 2.2.90 and 14.2.90.

#### **Vessels Acquired by Andaman and Nicobar Administration**

10303. SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vessels acquired by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration during the last one year;

(b) the particulars of the vessels and the purpose of such acquisition mentioning the date of receiving such vessels at Port Blair;

(c) whether all the vessels have started operation and if so, since when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.