

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR : We do understand that Rs. 12 is very little money in these days of high prices. But then these are State schemes and if we ask them to pay more, then they will come and say, "Give us more money from the Centre." We are working on the scheme and we have not yet finalised it and I do not think there is anything that we can do at this stage.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : My question was similar to that, Sir. The criterion for sanction of old age pension is that the person should be destitute. That means that with the money paid to him he must be able to live. But Rs. 12 is nothing these days and so there is no use giving to a large number of people Rs. 12 each. Therefore, why not reduce the number of people and increase the quantum of money spent on each? Or increase the quantum of money spent for old age pension. Something should be done. This is only something like a show.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kumaran, this is a very useful comment, but it is not a question.

PROF. M. B. LAL : Some time back a committee was appointed by Government to enquire into the conditions of the pensioners. Will it be possible for the Government to publish the report of that committee? And will it be possible for Government to appoint a commission to enquire into the adequacy of the rules that are existing now with regard to pensioners? The pension rules are very old rules and they need to be revised and to be studied very carefully.

AN HON. MEMBER : We are not considering pension rules now.

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR : Sir, I do not think this question has anything to do with the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are all getting old.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Yes, every day.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY : Yes, and hence our interest in this question, Sir. Is there any difference in age between a man

and a woman with regard to giving these pensions? Is there a lower age for women and a higher age for men? Or are men and women placed on the same footing?

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR : I don't think there is any.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discrimination on account of sex.

A M.Os., D.M.Os. AND SPECIALISTS IN RAILWAY HOSPITALS

733. **SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of A.M.Os and D.M.Os. in the Railway Hospitals;

(b) what are the scales of pay of each category;

(c) the number of specialists in Railway Hospitals; and

(d) what is their scale of pay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a), (c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) A.M.Os.—Rs. 350—25—500—30—590—EB—30—800—EB—30—830—35—900.

D.M.Os.—Rs. 700—40—1100—50/2—1300.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that while there is a large number of A.M.Os. the number of D.M.Os. is very small? I would like to know how these D.M.Os. are appointed. Are they appointed directly? If they are appointed by promotion from A.M.Os. to D.M.Os. what is the percentage taken from the A.M.Os. as members of D.M.Os.?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : As the hon. Member himself has stated, the number of D.M.Os. is less than the number of A.M.Os. More A.M.Os. posts have been recently created, that is to say, about the beginning of this year. A proportion of D.M.Os. are selected by a Selection Board from these people, from medical practitioners at present called Assistant Medical Officers.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : How many ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Whenever there is vacancy they are selected. And recently—the hon. Member might be interested to know—some posts of Medical Superintendents were created on the Zonal Railways. And so in that way some fresh opportunities have been created.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : When specialists from A.M.Os. are promoted as D.M.Os. are they to work in general administration and do other duties or are they given the same work of specialists ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Actually in the Railway hospitals there are specialists and other general doctors also and we are very happy that the specialists' talent is being utilised very fruitfully in the Railway hospitals and it is not lost as the hon. Member is perhaps under an apprehension that the specialists are not being properly utilised.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN : I wanted to know, when the specialists are promoted to the post of D.M.Os. whether they are given general duties as Head of the hospitals or whether they are given their old specialist's duties. That was my first question. Another thing I want to know is if the Railways intend to have a cadre of all these specialists and whether they would be treated as they are treated in the C.H.S.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : At present there is no proposal to have any special cadre of the specialists but some of the District Medical Officers or Divisional Medical Officers are also specialists and others are in the general cadre but becoming D.M.Os. does not mean that they are absolved of their responsibility to work as specialists because the Railway hospitals are performing their duties so nicely that all the talent that exists in the Railway medical rank is being utilised.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : On the Railways, Sir, all the doctors have been promoted as A.M.Os. because there has been a demand from the doctors that their pay scale is not on par with that in the Central Health Service. Therefore all of them

have been promoted as A.M.Os. and the specialists who are promoted are given one advance increment while fixing their pay. The nature of work cannot differ because of the pay scales. It is only to give them financial benefit that the Railways have promoted all of them as A.M.Os. Is this not a fact, Sir ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : Yes Sir. That is true but I might slightly correct it because earlier to the recent increase also the Railway scale was not very much lower than the scale that obtained elsewhere though of course even today there is no uniformity. But the Railway scale is being quite appreciated everywhere and it was the Railways which first took up this matter.

KIDNAPPING OF CHILDREN IN KERALA

*734 { SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPI
DAS :
SHRI D. THENGARI : †

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increasing number of cases of kidnapping of children, attempting to deform them with a view to use them as aids to begging in Kerala State; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such incidents ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Information is being collected.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Are the cases of children being brought from Madras to Kerala brought to the notice of the Government particularly to Kottarakara, Pattanamthita and Olavakkot ?

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR : That information we have asked from the Kerala State Government. As soon as the information comes I will lay it on the Table of the House and then further questions can be put.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri D. Thengari.