

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: 'Family', so far as I remember, means father and mother staying with the beneficiary, his sons and daughters and his wife of course.

SHRI MAHESH SARAN: By what time a final decision will be taken?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think it will be taken shortly.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Who is to decide the matter finally? Is it the Finance Ministry or the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think ultimately it will be the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: But what deters the Finance Ministry from coming to a decision in this matter? It has been hanging for the last two and a half years.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: About two and a half years; I should like to clear one misapprehension. The original idea was to start three dispensaries. And then it was the Joint Committee of Members of Parliament who were seized of the matter. They had many meetings and almost very recently they had a meeting in March, 1958. They came to the conclusion that there was no unanimity and so the scheme could not be proceeded with. And then we came on the scene. Whether there is unanimity or not, we made an offer that even if 25 Members of Parliament joined, we are prepared to start our scheme. That was our offer. That offer is in suspended animation, on account of the difficulties that I pointed out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

BUILDING OF SHIPS IN JAPAN UNDER THE YEN CREDIT

*556. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ships are being built in Japan under the Yen credit;

(b) if so, how many and on whose behalf; and

(c) what is the total tonnage of these ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Western Shipping Corporation (Private) Ltd., Bombay, an Indian Shipping company in the public sector, have placed an order for one tanker on the Harima Ship building Yard in Japan. The Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay, have also recently finalised the contract for placing an order for a cargo ship on a Japanese ship building yard. The total tonnage of these two ships will be about 14,500 G.R.T. In addition, it is possible two or three more ships will be ordered.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know when the ships will be ready for delivery?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The tanker for which an order has been placed by the Western Shipping Corporation is expected to be delivered in 1959. The other one is also for delivery in 1959.

ZONAL COMMITTEES OF THE RAILWAYS

*557. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of advisory or consultative committees of the Railways which exist in each zone and their names; and

(b) the number of members of each of these committees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XXII, Annexure No. 51.]

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: May I know out of these 92

committees how many women members are there? Out of the members of the Catering Committee (Item No. 7) there are 19 members—how many are women?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: So far as the National Railway Users' Consultative Council is concerned, out of 18 MPs. there are three women Members of Parliament. Now, in the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee for the total of 224 there are only two women members. So far as the Catering Committee is concerned, I do not have the exact number, but ladies are in the majority in that particular committee.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government aware that out of 300 or 400 members of these committees, hardly more than ten or twelve are women, barring the catering committee, which has 17. Barring that they number perhaps ten or twelve women.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I give the exact numbers. Out of 53 members in the National Railway Users' Consultative Council, only three are ladies. Out of 224 members of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees, there are only two ladies.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Then, Sir, the population of women is half in the country. What is the reason for not giving representation to women on these small committees?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those few are doing so much there.

IMPROVEMENT OF KATPADI JUNCTION

*558. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations were made to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Railways during their recent visits to the Katpadi Junction for effecting improvement of the Katpadi Junction;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to carry out any improvements; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, when these improvements are likely to be carried out?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year, it is proposed to extend the III Class waiting hall and provide sanitary fittings in the Upper Class waiting room bathrooms. Provision of loud-speakers has been programmed in 1958-59. In regard to other matters, a statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to say as to by what time all the improvements suggested will be carried out, their execution depending upon the approval of the Users' Consultative Committee, the availability of funds and materials.

STATEMENT

Regarding the other suggestions, the position is as follows:—

(1) *Provision of covering over the platforms.*—Provision of suitable shelters over the platforms on either side of the station building has had to be held in abeyance pending improvement in the availability of structural steel.

(2) *Provision of retiring rooms.*—The proposal for building the retiring rooms will be placed for consideration at the next meeting of the Users' Amenities Committee for possible inclusion in the 1960-61 programme.

(3) *Provision of a fully furnished refreshment room.*—The Users' Amenities Committee will consider at their next meeting the proposal for improvement to the existing Vegetarian Refreshment Room for possible inclusion in the 1960-61 programme.