

श्री डी० पी० करमरकर : हा, माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न पूछने के बाद अब हम डॉ० लक्ष्मीपति को लिखेंगे ।

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know if the Government is aware that there are two sets of conflicting views about tobacco causing cancer and if so, has Government made any attempt to reconcile these two views?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Excepting the views of the tobacco manufacturers, there has been no conflict about the fact, because I do remember to have read some two years back that, outside the country, they put up a strong plea that tobacco does not cause cancer. But, so far as our investigations and the investigations outside the country show, there seems to be no doubt about the fact that tobacco does take a substantial part in the aggravation of cancer.

BOMBAY STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

*508 **SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: COMMUNICA

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Steam Navigation Company recently complained to Government that they were sustaining a continuous loss from their steamer service along the West Coast;

(b) whether the Company asked for permission to enhance the present rates of steamer fares which were enhanced very recently;

(c) whether the Company intimated to Government that they would be compelled to close down their operations in case Government do not attend their aid to make up the losses of the company;

(d) whether Government have given the Company any assurance about compensation for the losses; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the public is greatly agitated over the enhanced rates allowed by Government to the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR**): (a), (b), (c) and (e). Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR: May I know whether the Government has satisfied itself that the complaint of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company was satisfactory?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, so far as we know, after some announcement in the rates which was made in 1951-52, they made a small profit of Rs. 2.92 lakhs. But after that, they have again been making some losses. In 1955, they claimed an increase of 33.13 per cent in fares, which was not agreed to and a Committee was appointed and an increase was allowed in fares to some extent only. It is obvious that they have been running under certain loss.

SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR: May I know if the loss will be avoided if the service is nationalised?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, that is a hypothetical question. I do not know whether they can be . . .

SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR: I would like to know whether the Government intends to nationalise this steamer service?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: At present, we have no such intention.

SETTING UP OF MACHINERY FOR ADVISING GOVERNMENT REGARDING CONVENIENCES AND COMFORTS FOR STEAMER PASSENGERS ALONG THE KONKAN COAST

*509. **SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any machinery to advise them regarding the conveniences and comforts of steamer passengers along the

Konkan Coast; if so, what is that machinery;

(b) what is the nature and personnel thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to set up such machinery; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Yes. A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Government have taken the following steps, not only to look after the welfare of passengers along the Konkan Coast, but of all passengers using passenger services based on the West Coast generally.

(1) A Deck Passenger Welfare Committee has been set up at Bombay for looking after the convenience and comfort of deck passengers and to act as a liaison between the passengers on the one hand and the shipping companies and other authorities on the other.

The Committee as originally constituted consisted of:

Chairman

- (1) The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay.

Official Members

- (2) The Protector of Emigrants, Bombay.
- (3) The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch II, Criminal Investigation Department, and Port, Bombay.
- (4) The Manager, Bombay Port Trust Docks.
- (5) The Port Health Officer, Bombay.

Non-official Members nominated by Government

- (6) Shri Devji Ratansey, 55, Warden Road, Bombay.
- (7) Prof. Bharesh Kulkarni, Congress House, Bombay.
- (8) Mrs. Fathema Ismail, Hony. Secretary, Bombay Provincial Bharat Sevak Samaj.
- (9) Shri Moreswar Dinkar Joshi, M.P., Tilak Lane, Ratnagiri.

The term of this Committee has expired and it is proposed to reconstitute the Committee shortly.

The Committee is purely advisory in nature and is responsible:

- (i) for arranging for the stay of the deck passengers at the port before embarkation and after disembarkation;
- (ii) for assisting them in securing tickets, permits, visas and other papers and arranging for vaccinations, inoculations etc.;
- (iii) for arranging transport in co-operation with public transport companies;
- (iv) for facilitating embarkation and disembarkation and protecting the passengers from imposition of undue levies;
- (v) for visiting unberthed passenger ships and bringing to the notice of the Mercantile Marine Department any non-compliance with the law or any unsatisfactory conditions; and
- (vi) for receiving complaints from unberthed passengers and obtaining redress from the appropriate authorities.

(2) A whole time Deck Passenger Welfare Officer has been appointed. This Officer attends the embarkation and disembarkation of unberthed passengers and attends to the complaints

brought to his notice on the spot. He also travels on board unberthed passenger ships and brings to the notice of Deck Passenger Welfare Committee any complaints or grievances of passengers.

SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR: May I know, Sir, whether there was any institution which was looking after the interests of the passengers, and whether it is functioning now?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, so far as I know, for the first time a Deck Passengers Committee, to go into this question, was appointed as early as in 1950. It was in pursuance of the report of that Committee that a Deck Passenger Welfare Committee was constituted in Bombay in 1954.

ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS FOR NAGARJUNASAGAR PROJECT

***510. SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allotment of funds for the Nagarjunasagar Project during the Second Five Year Plan has now been reduced;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) whether foreign exchange difficulty has affected in any way the digging of canals on the right and left banks under the Nagarjunasagar Project?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To some extent. In view of the present difficult foreign exchange position, release of foreign exchange has been restricted to most essential items of machinery and spare parts required for the operation of existing machines, which have been obtained largely from other Projects.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Am I to understand that the original pro-

gramme for the construction of the Nagarjunasagar project is going on as per schedule?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is still going on as per schedule.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Does this foreign exchange difficulty come in the way of this original programme, and if so, in which aspects of the project?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: We are hoping that the foreign exchange difficulty will not come in the way of the Nagarjunasagar project.

***511.** [The questioner (Shri Mahesh Saran) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2985 infra.]

रूस से बिजली के ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स

***५१२. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार सोवियत समाजवादी गणराज्य संघ से बिजली के कुछ ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स मंगा रही है ; यदि हां, तो :—

(क) कितने ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स मंगा रही है ;

(ख) ये ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स कितनी शक्ति के हैं और उनके कब तक आ जाने की आशा है ; और

(ग) इन ट्रांसफॉर्मर्स की क्या कीमत दी जायेगी और वह किस प्रकार चुकाई जायेगी ?

†[POWER TRANSFORMERS FROM U.S.S.R.]

***512. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN:** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether Government are ordering some power transformers from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; if so,

(a) the number of transformers ordered;

†[] English translation.