

Government aware that there are several persons in the country specialised in Paediatrics? What is the specialised work for which they are coming because specialised work is a vague term? The House should be satisfied as to the exact nature of specialisation for which there are no qualified persons available in this country.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA SEKHAR: This is a team. They have come on invitation and we are not paying them. It is not a matter where we are depriving Indian personnel of their chance.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Does Government realise that by bringing people like this it deprives opportunities for our own persons for training? Also our people are considered capable of taking training within six months in any specialised branch in foreign countries and are coming back as qualified people. Then what is the reason for continuing this arrangement?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: The hon. Member has travelled in Russia and she knows that there the development of children is of a high degree. So, for various reasons we have brought this team to get our people trained in particular branches of Paediatrics.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I have been in Russia and that is exactly the reason why I ask whether the hon. Minister who has been in Russia could not agree with me that it is possible for our people who have been trained—at least twenty could be mentioned—who would be able to do the same work. . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. No speech.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Now the question is, does not the hon. Minister think that this depriving of our people of this opportunity of organising the hospital creates an inferiority complex in them?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Their knowledge may be old. But the team consists of latest specialists.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know why all these institutions are concentrated in Delhi?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a different matter.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: My question remains unanswered.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: The donors wanted the hospital to be in Delhi.

DR. R. P. DUBE: I want to know how many children's hospitals there are in India.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I would require notice for that.

GROUNDING OFF OF SHIPS IN ANDAMANS' PORTS

***177. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM:** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two ships were grounded off the port of Meadow and Elphinstone Harbour in the Andamans during the year 1955-56;

(b) if so, what was the reason of this calamity; and

(c) whether any enquiry was held by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes. The s.s. "Inchkeith" grounded while coming out of port Meadows on the 2nd March 1955 and s.s. "Semiramis I" grounded off north end of Landfall Island (and not Elphinstone Harbour) on the 22nd May 1955.

(b) The "Inchkeith" struck an uncharted rock while in the case of "Semiramis I" the accident appeared to have been due to negligent navigation.

(c) Yes. An enquiry was held in each case under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know how much loss was incurred in these two accidents?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have no idea. The ships were fully insured and the Insurance Companies should have borne the losses. The ships were carrying coal.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it is a fact that the inefficiency of some officers was the cause of this calamity?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That was not brought out as a result of the enquiry. One ship struck an uncharted rock—that is the finding of the enquiry. In another case it was due to defective navigation.

SHRI G. RANGA: Can it be the defective navigation of the ship or the negligence of those who were navigating it? What action was taken against those people in regard to whom the enquiry had itself said that it was due to negligent navigation?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Surely it should have been the Captain and others responsible for navigation but it is not due to any technical defect in the ship.

SHRI G. RANGA: Was any action taken against these people?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not aware

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it is a fact that before the occurrence of this accident a considerably junior officer was promoted to the post of Harbour Master?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not aware of that.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know whether there was not an advertisement for appointing a regular qualified Harbour Master in the Andamans?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know.

SHRI G. RANGA: When the hon. Minister is not aware of the facts in regard to those two questions that we have put may I know whether it would be possible for the hon. Minister to make necessary enquiries and place the information on the Table of the House when he gets it?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are all foreign vessels which were chartered by Indian Companies. From the enquiries the position was brought out that there was need for a thorough hydrographic survey of the region, and this question has been taken up with the naval authorities.

SHRIMATI SATVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know what precaution was taken by the Government to stop such occurrences?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think that is covered by my answer.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Survey is being taken up.

APEX BANKS AND PRIMARY SOCIETIES IN UNION TERRITORIES

*178. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Co-operative Apex Banks have been established in all the Union Territories; and

(b) if so, what are the rates of interest charged by (i) the Apex Banks and (ii) Primary Societies from individuals in the various Union Territories?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No. Co-operative Apex Banks have been established only in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

(b) The rate of interest charged by the Apex Banks and the Primary Societies are as follows :—