

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether for finding out these lottery tickets letters are also opened if they are suspected to contain lottery tickets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Whenever we suspect that lottery tickets are contained in book post packets or other postal articles, we interrupt them and if they are lottery tickets, circulars or other material connected with them that may come under purview of the definition we sent them back to the senders.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: So far as book-posts are concerned, they are open. I want to know about others. Suppose a registered letter is suspected to contain such lottery tickets, will it be opened?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question is rather hypothetical. It all depends upon detection whether a registered article or anything else contains lottery tickets or not. If we have reasonable grounds to proceed we do take action.

SHRI S. S. N. TANKHA: If these Irish Sweepstake tickets are not prohibited by the Home Ministry from being sold, how is it then that the Post Office stops their transmission?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I cannot reply on behalf of the Home Ministry offhand but, so far as post office is concerned we have got a rule that we will not encourage the transmission of these lottery tickets by book packets and otherwise.

MERCHANT NAVY LIFEBOAT TRAINING CENTRE

*342. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Merchant Navy Lifeboat Training Centre has recently been established in Bombay;

(b) if so, the nature of the training imparted at that Centre;

(c) (i) the method of selection of the trainees; (ii) the number of trainees who will receive training at a time and (iii) the duration of the training course at that Centre; and

(d) whether Government propose to open more such centres at other places in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Training is imparted in the efficient handling of a lifeboat and the proper use of its equipment.

(c) (i) Trainees are selected in batches from among Merchant Navy seamen above the age of 18 who have served at sea for a period of not less than six months.

(ii) About 15 to 20.

(iii) One week.

(d) Yes, at Calcutta.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is this training being continuously given or it is being given for short periods and then discontinued?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Not continuously. It is given for about one week and it has not been found necessary so far to change it. But if it is considered necessary, refresher courses might also be given.

INTRODUCTION OF A NEW ACCIDENT MEDICAL RELIEF CAR ON THE CENTRAL RAILWAY

*343. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new type of Accident Medical Relief Car has recently been put into service on the Broad Gauge section of the Central Railway;

(b) if so, what are its main features;

(c) what has been the cost of building and equipping it; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide similar Accident Medical Relief Cars on other railway zones also?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) The construction of the van has just been completed by the Central Railway, but it has not yet been put on line.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Rs. 1,38,662 approximately.

(d) Yes.

STATEMENT

The main features of this Car are:—

(a) Kitchen.

(b) Servants' quarters.

(c) Lavatories for staff.

(d) Doctors' Rest Room.

(e) Medical Store Room.

(f) Operation Room.

(g) Ward to accommodate 18 lying cases in 3 tiers.

Arrangements have been made for storing the entire medical equipment in two steel cupboards, built in cupboards in the pannel and in box-seats. the equipment includes a Refrigerator, Sterilising equipment, Operation Table, Stools for Anaesthetists, Oxygen Cylinders, Special Shadowless Operation Lamp, provision for hot and cold water, Washbasins fitted with elbow operated faucet, knee action waste etc.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if there is any arrangement to carry potential blood donors also in the medical car?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not think. We have not made any arrangements so far, but we have got arrangements in our railway hospitals at different stations.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, to what train this medical care is going to be attached?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It has not been attached so far and we have not taken a decision so far.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: To what train is it attached?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We have not taken any decision.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether this accident medical relief car was constructed here in the country or imported from outside?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It has been made here in our railway workshop.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are the extra features which are attached to this medical car, as against the relief cars which are ordinarily used, to be attached to the trains?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Firstly, it provides more accommodation. It accommodates about 18 lying cases in 3 tiers. It has also got a kitchen; then doctors' rest room; medical store room; operation room. These were not provided before. And the equipment includes a refrigerator, sterilising equipment, operation table, oxygen cylinders, etc.,

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Have any special devices been embodied in this car to withstand vibration and shaking while the train is in motion?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I think the Mechanical Engineers should pay attention and I hope they will give attention to that. But it is very difficult to give an assurance that there will be no shaking on the railway track.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Have any special arrangements been made in this car to prevent its vibrating, and jolting, because if this is not done, operation in this car would be difficult to perform.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I have just now answered that. As the hon. Member is aware there is less shaking in air-conditioned coaches and this medical van will be air-conditioned; so there will be less of shaking and vibration.

*344. [Postponed to 31st May 1956]

COCHIN PORT EMPLOYEES' UNION

*345. SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state the reasons for which the Cochin Port Employees' Union has not been granted recognition by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The office-bearers of this Union also claim to have been elected as the office-bearers of another existing recognised Union, viz., the Cochin Port Workers Union. The validity of their election as office-bearers of the latter Union is at present *sub judice* and the question of recognition of the Cochin Port Employees Union cannot properly be considered until after the issue has been decided by the Court.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Is the Government aware that this Cochin Port Employees' Union has the support of seventy-five per cent. of the workers there?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, Sir, it is difficult for me to express any opinion on that. But anyhow if they have got a majority, that matter will be taken into consideration when recognition will have to be given to this Union.

CONSTITUTION OF WORKS COMMITTEE AT COCHIN PORT

*346. SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Works Committee has been constituted and is functioning at present in Cochin Port, as pro-

vided for under Section 3 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A Works Committee was constituted in March 1953 and functioned satisfactorily till December, 1953. It ceased to function thereafter due to the resignation of the labour representatives from the Committee.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Now, I would like to know whether the workers themselves have made a demand to organise Works Committees there?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They have made a demand, but the matter, as I said in answer to the previous question, being *sub judice* it is not possible to negotiate with either party to select the labour representatives for the Works Committee.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: The Works Committees are elected not on the basis of Unions, but on the basis of the representation of the workers employed there. So, I do not understand the difficulty in organising the Works Committee there.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The representatives of the Works Committee are selected from amongst the members of the Unions. The Unions are informally consulted by the Administrator. Because there is a dispute between the two Unions, both of them claim that they are the legal Union. So, we have to wait till the matter has been decided by the court.

SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR: Since when this dispute has arisen?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I think since March 1955.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I ask whether the Minister is aware that Works Committees are elected not on