

RAJYASABHA

Thursday, 15th March 1956

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SALE OF CHEAP CONTRACEPTIVES

*368. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain cheap varieties of contraceptives are sold by roadside hawkers; if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take any action in the matter; and

(b) the countries from which such contraceptives are imported and how import licences are granted for these articles?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) It is possible for unlicensed roadside dealers to sell rubber contraceptives. The sale of chemical (medical) contraceptives is proposed to be controlled under the Drugs Act, 1940, as amended in 1955, so that they can be sold only by licensed dealers under the Act. The Government of India have no proposals for controlling the sale of rubber contraceptives.

(b) The countries from which contraceptives are generally imported are U.K., U.S.A., France and Germany. No import licence is necessary for the import of rubber contraceptives from soft currency areas, or of medicinal contraceptives from areas other than the Union of South Africa. Import licences for the import of rubber contraceptives from the dollar areas are granted on a liberal basis.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: I would like to know what the policy of Government will be in this regard. If they are going to sell certain types of contraceptives through certain agencies, why do they allow this?

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SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, it is considered that rubber contraceptives are not harmful. That is why we are not bringing this matter under the Drugs Act.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: What is the policy of the Government in regard to the use of these contraceptives in India? What happens to the youth of India if these are sold by roadside hawkers? Bombay is full of them

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I do not think this needs an answer.

REPRESENTATIONS OF THE TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES OF TRIVANDRUM DIVISIONAL BRANCHES

*369. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Minister for Communications met the representatives of the telegraph employees from Trivendrum Divisional Branches at Trivendrum in January 1956;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the representations made at that meeting; and

(c) the decisions of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a), (b) and (c). Yes. Certain matters regarding their service were discussed. Some of the items were already decided and others are under consideration of Government.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to grant them central pay scales and D.A., and if the answer is in the affirmative, may I know the reason for not implementing the decision?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question is not at all clear. We have agreed to allow them the central pay scales,

etc. with effect from 1st April 1951 initially, which was changed to 1st April 1950 later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not heard the answer.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, central pay scales were granted to the staff taken over by the department to take effect from 1st April 1951. But then, on representations later, this date was changed to 1st April 1950. Arrears were, however, not allowed.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Is it not a fact that the Minister had told the representatives who met him at Trivendrum that the decision could not be implemented because Comptroller and Auditor General had held up that decision?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The question is not at all clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make the question clear.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: I will try once again. Is it a fact.....

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, if it is clear to you, kindly explain it to me.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The question is not clear and the answer is not also clear.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Is it a fact that the Minister had told the representatives of the Telegraph Engineering employees, Trivendrum, that the Government had decided to grant them central pay scales and D.A., but that they could not implement it because the Comptroller and Auditor-General did not take any decision on that?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, this question hardly arises. I have already said that the central pay scales have been granted from 1st April 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pay scales had been granted to them with effect from the 1st April 1951, originally.

But on subsequent representations, the date was advanced to 1st April 1950. So, one year has been given that side.

*370. [Transferred to the 14th March 1956.]

DEATH OF INDIAN SEAMEN ABOARD "CLAN ALPINE" AT GLASGOW

*371. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Seamen's Federation has demanded an enquiry into the death of six Indian seamen aboard "Clan Alpine" at Glasgow on the 3rd February 1956; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b) The All India Seamen's Federation, Calcutta, had made a direct request to the High Commissioner for India, London, on 3rd February 1956, for an immediate enquiry into the matter. A public enquiry was held by the Sheriff Court, Glasgow, on 13th February 1956, and according to the verdict of jury the death of the six seamen was caused by carbon monoxide fumes from a home-made brazier. The report of the enquiry is awaited.

TRAINING ABROAD IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

*372. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indians are sent abroad for training in Local Self Government;

(b) to which countries they are sent;

(c) what is the duration of their training; and