

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact that the French experts had been brought in there in order to help the Government to speed up this construction and in spite of it, whereas in the past there was no such extension of time given in such an indifferent manner, it has now come to be given as a result of the presence of those people?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Of course this question should be put to the other Ministry, but, as far as my information goes, these experts were always there. Only new experts came, and we hope that the position will improve.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I wanted to know as to why these orders for these ships were placed with our Hindustan Shipyard when it cannot say definitely as to when it can start and when it can deliver as at this time the most important thing is that we should have ships as soon as possible.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, we have to take both the aspects of the question. Having started a Yard of our own we cannot starve it. We have to place orders and see that they are given full work. At the same time to obtain more tonnage we go to foreign Yards also. It is not a question of their now knowing the dates of delivery. Perhaps they are under finalisation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the work of some foreign shipping expert attached to the Hindustan Shipping has been found by the Government to be unsatisfactory? If so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like the hon. Member to direct the question to the concerned Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Production Ministry.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ORGANISATION ON THE RAILWAYS

\*154. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about the establishment of a Central anti-corruption organisation for the Railways; if so, the time by which such an organisation is likely to be established;

(b) what will be the strength and the total approximate initial expenditure of the organisation; and

(c) the manner in which it will be coordinated with the anti-corruption organisations in the various railway zones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a), (b) and (c). It has been decided to set up a Central organisation but the other questions are still under consideration.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the senior scale anti-corruption officers to be appointed on the various Railways are to be directly under the officer in the Railway Board, or they will be under the control of the General Managers of the various Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Corruption Enquiry Committee did not envisage an organisation at the Centre. We propose to have an organisation at the Centre which will co-ordinate the activities of the corresponding organisations on the Railways. The Vigilance Officers—that is now the name we propose to give—on the various Railways will be under the Chief Security Officer and will also be under the General Managers.

DR. R. P. DUBE: May I know when the Report of the Anti-Corruption Enquiry Committee was published?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: About a few months back—I don't remember the exact date—it was published a few months back.

PROF. G. RANGA: Will these Vigilance Officers have freedom to correspond or communicate with the Railway Board or what you call the Central Organisation, which is being set up by the Railway Board, when they find it necessary, even apart from their being subordinate to the General Managers there?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There will be full co-ordination between the Central cell and the cells in the various Railways. There will be full co-ordination.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are these anti-corruption officers supposed to initiate enquiries themselves and are they supposed to initiate enquiries against officers of higher rank than themselves?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There are all matters that are at present under consideration. Whether the Central set-up may initiate enquiries with reference to gazetted officers and the organisations on the Railways with reference to non-gazetted officers—these matters are at present under consideration.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: May I know if these officers will have the authority to conduct prosecutions or they will merely report and leave the prosecution business to the local police?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The prosecution will be done either by the local police or by the S.P.E.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know the qualifications of these Vigilance Officers who are being appointed to prevent corruption on the Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They will be senior scale officers.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Will they be drawn from the Railways or from outsiders? How are they recruited?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They will be drawn from the Railways.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know how this system will be efficacious in putting down corruption from the Railways if they appoint the Railway officers themselves who are responsible for this corruption?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that there are no honest officers in the Railways?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARAMANAND: Would it not be in the opinion of the Railway Ministry more effective if these Railway Anti-corruption Officers are recruited from the usual Anti-corruption Department and they are put under the Home Ministry? Would it not lead to greater efficiency to put them under the Home Ministry?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They will not be under the Home Ministry. They will be under the Railway Ministry. But we have been consulting the Home Ministry who have been taking action with reference to other Departments and we will fall in line with their wishes in the matter of enquiry etc.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that the Railway Corruption Enquiry Committee made a clear and categorical recommendation that the officers should be drawn from other Departments than the Railways and what are the reasons of the Railway Ministry for not accepting that recommendation?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, the recommendation of the Corruption Enquiry Committee was confined to the setting up of organisations on the Railways. They did not recommend any Central organisation. In fact, we have gone a step further and we wanted to set up a Central organisation which will co-ordinate the activities of all the organisations on the Railways. The recommendation of the Corruption Enquiry Committee of not having the officers from the Railways was with reference to the organisations on the Railways. In the Central organisation that we are going to set up, the Vigilance Officer, the man

presiding over that organisation will not be drawn from the Railway Service; he will be drawn from the Administrative Service. But as far as the organisations on the Railways go, the Vigilance Officers will be drawn from the Railway Service. We have there deviated from the recommendation of the Corruption Enquiry Committee and come to this conclusion.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** May I know whether the Government has any knowledge of the fact that at least in some cases the security officers have found it difficult to deal with cases of corruption in which high-ranking railway officers were involved?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** There is no such case.

**DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND:** The present police on the Railways are drawn from the ordinary police. Would it not be better for this purpose also to draw the officers concerned from the usual anti-corruption Departments in the various States and at the Centre?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** The investigating officers both at the Centre and on the Railways will be drawn from the police.

\*155. [For answer, vide cols. 860-861 infra.]

\*156. [For answer, vide cols. 861-862 infra.]

#### RETIREMENT AGE OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL

\*157. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether any orders raising the age-limit of retirement of medical personnel in Government service have been issued;

(b) if so, since when the order has become effective; and

(c) which class of medical personnel will be covered by the said order?

**THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR):** (a) No such orders have been issued.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Is it not a fact that in the last session the hon. Minister said in reply to a question in the other House that such orders will be issued?

**RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR:** I think there may have been some misunderstanding. This question has even been before the Cabinet. I raised it some time ago on the plea that it was difficult for us to lose medical and scientific personnel at 55 and every eminent medical man who had visited us from other countries was of that same opinion. Therefore it was decided that while it was not necessary to alter the rules, extension should be granted liberally on grounds of public interest more especially in the case of scientific and technical personnel. And that is the policy that is being followed.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Am I to take it that the policy will be implemented with reference to specific cases or in a general manner?

**RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR:** With reference to specific cases.

#### PASSENGER GUIDES ON THE EASTERN AND NORTH EASTERN RAILWAYS

\*158. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is any avenue of promotion of passenger guides employed on the Eastern and North Eastern Railways; and if so, what?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN):** Passenger Guides promoted from Ticket Collectors get promotion in the line of Ticket Collectors. Passenger Guides first recruited as Social Guides in 1947 and 1948, including those recruited on scales higher than Rs. 60—150 have also been given a place as Ticket Collectors and are eligible for promotion in that line.