

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will it not be desirable to apply this scheme first to the primary school children in the projects?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Naturally all children in the National Extension Blocks will be medically examined and will be looked after. It will apply to the primary schools.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I want to ask a question on this. Have the Medical Associations been consulted in the matter of drawing up as well as the implementation of the scheme?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No. The Medical Association need not be consulted in all schemes that the Government puts up.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Their co-operation may be easily obtained.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: As the Health Minister has referred to having a programme, may I ask what the cost would be to the State, per student for the midday meal at the primary stage?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Does this refer to the school feeding programme, because it is rather different from the question under examination?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we have had enough of this. No more. Next question.

GRIEVANCES OF THE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES OF SAKRIGALIGHAT

*366. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the grievances of the employees stationed at Sakrigalighat expressed in the resolutions passed at the Eastern Railway Ferry Staff Conference held in August 1955;

(b) if so, what are those grievances; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a), (b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to understand that the Government has not received any copy of the resolutions or memorandum submitted by the employees concerned?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have not received, but perhaps the Railway has received and we are collecting the information.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Deputy Minister aware of the fact that some of the grievances of these employees are old, old in the sense that they were raised also in this House and before the hon. Minister and in spite of his assurance some of these have not been implemented, say, as regards the supply of weather protection uniforms?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I shall be able to say which are old demands and which are new as soon as I get the information. I shall certainly look into the matter.

ORDERS PLACED WITH A JAPANESE FIRM FOR THE SUPPLY OF ROLLING STOCK

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

(a) whether any orders for the supply of rolling stock for the Indian Railways have been placed with any Japanese concern; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the selection of that Japanese concern was made on the basis of the tenders submitted by that concern and if so, how

those tenders compared with those submitted by other concerns?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The prices quoted by Japanese Firms compared favourably with the prices quoted by other foreign Firms.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if this is the first order that has been placed with the Japanese concern?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think we have placed orders even earlier. I do not have the information before me now.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Did we receive anything from them before and have we examined their quality?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. That is always looked into.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What is the value of the rolling stock ordered and what proportion does it constitute of the total rolling stock ordered outside India?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Against the 1955-56 rolling stock programme, the total approximate landed cost of rolling stock for which orders have been placed in Japan will be about Rs. 12·8 crores.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, as to how these tenders from Japan compare with tenders from Germany?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Favourably—he has said already.

POLICE CASES AGAINST S.E. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*368. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police cases have been instituted against some employees of the South Eastern Railway offices at Calcutta;

(b) if so, the number of such employees;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the employees in this connection;

(d) if so, the demands submitted in that representation; and

(e) what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Police cases have been instituted against certain staff of the South Eastern Railway offices at Calcutta.

(b) The number of such employees is 32.

(c) and (d). No representation has been received from the employees.

(e) It is for the West Bengal Government to take appropriate action.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But is it not a fact that the employees have requested the Railway Authorities for the withdrawal of these cases and institution of a Departmental enquiry?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We have received no representation. But recently a Member of the Railway Board went to Calcutta and he had long talks with the employees concerned and with the Union authorities. They suggested that the cases might be withdrawn. They have taken up the matter with the Bengal Government also. Personally, I have no objection to the cases being withdrawn. But I do hope that the Union will help in maintaining better discipline.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a strong resentment among the employees of various Railways also against the