

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 1th September 1954

The House met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DETENTION AND DESTRUCTION OF A MONKEY AT THE DUM DUM AIRPORT

*199. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether a monkey from Saigon bound for Paris was detained at the Dum Dum Airport and subsequently destroyed on the 16th July, 1954;

(b) the circumstances of the arrival of the monkey at the Dum Dum Airport; and

(c) whether any steps were taken to contact the owner of the monkey in the matter; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) Yes.

(b) The monkey was brought by its owner to India in contravention of the Government's quarantine regulations.

(c) Yes. The regulations on the subject were brought to the notice of the owner of the monkey as well as to the Air Company concerned. The monkey was destroyed only after the Air Company had informed the Airport Health Officer that as there was no chance of complying with the regulations, the monkey may be destroyed.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know the reasons, Sir, for which the monkey was destroyed?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We have to be very careful that yellow fever does not come into India. That is the only reason. It is the one fever that we want to avoid if we possibly can.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is the Government sure that the U.S.A. chimpanzee

52 R.S.D.

star, Mr. Muggs, while he was being shown round in India, had possessed quarantine certificate against yellow fever?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir, it arises out of this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not about this monkey. Another monkey he is concerned with. They are all our nearest relations in the animal kingdom. That is why he is concerned.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The question arises this way that because that unfortunate monkey had no certificate, it was destroyed, but what about Mr. Muggs, I am asking, who was being shown round in right royal splendour without any certificate. I hope the Government owes some answer to this.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I do not know who Mr. Muggs is, but nobody is allowed to enter India without complying with quarantine regulations if he has been through a yellow fever zone and has not got the certificate.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Mr. Muggs had been to yellow fever zone and will the Government please enquire into it and let me know?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How do you know so much about Mr. Muggs?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Because they were our ancestors.

DR. P. C. MITRA: For how many days was the animal kept?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I cannot tell you for how many days.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES OF SAKRIGALI JUNCTION AND SAKRIGALI GHAT STATION

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

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the.