

on account of the unprecedented floods. Some have been closed and some have not been.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that in this section of the railway line, breaches occur every year, minor or major, and as a result there is interruption in rail communication for a certain time every year? May I know, Sir, what steps the Government are taking to expedite a decision in this matter?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Chief Minister of West Bengal recently discussed this question with the Railway Board and it has been decided to set up a Joint Committee for investigation by the North Eastern Railway and the West Bengal Irrigation Department, with the assistance of the Hydraulic Research Station.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the Joint Investigation Body has already started its work?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It will start its work.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SERVICE SCHEME

*390. **SHRI V. S. SARWATE:** Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government servants assigned to one doctor under the Contributory Health Service Scheme for Central Government servants, introduced recently in Delhi and New Delhi; and

(b) the scale of contribution to be paid by different classes of Government servants under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) About 1090 on the average.

(b) A statement giving the information required is placed on the

Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 110.]

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that before the scheme was introduced, Government employees were at liberty to get medical treatment free, whereas they have now to pay for it?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: That is so, Sir, but then the treatment that they got was nothing like the treatment that they get now and the low paid Government employees are glad of this scheme.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, what the doctors are paid for this service?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The pay of the doctors work out at about Rs. 2,58,000 recurring. The scale depends on the various categories of doctors.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Is it a fact that whereas gazetted officers, if they are dissatisfied with the medical treatment under this scheme, are at liberty to approach direct higher medical authorities, non-gazetted officers are not so allowed to do?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir, that is not so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether Government employees have the privilege to go to any doctor they like and then charge the Government?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir. There is a panel of doctors to whom they should go.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, on what basis contribution is made?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: On the basis of pay. A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVARGIYA: Is there any scheme under consideration that the Members of Parliament should also receive medical aid on a contributory basis?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir. It is for Members of Parliament to consider and put up a scheme to me.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether Class IV employees and their families are also eligible for free medical treatment?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the panel system or service system is adopted for this scheme?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Service system.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: It is a fact that the Labour Ministry was in favour of the panel system?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: No, Sir. The Labour Ministry was not consulted on this. It was a decision of the Cabinet, a unanimous decision. I think the hon. Member is mixing this scheme up with the Employees State Insurance Scheme.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILWAY BOARD'S VISIT TO JAPAN

†*391. SHRI KRISHNAKANT VYAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Railway Board had

†Original notice in Hindi as below:

जापानी रेल इंजनों की जाच

*३९१. श्री कृष्णकान्त व्यास : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जापान से जिन रेल इंजनों को खरीदने के

gone to Japan for the inspection of locomotives for which orders were placed in that country; and

(b) if so, what report he has made about the quality of the locomotives?

* THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN). (a) The Chairman, Railway Board, visited Japan to examine and progress arrangements for the inspection, handling and shipping of rolling stock and other railway components orders from Japanese manufacturers.

(b) At the time of the visit, the manufacture of these locomotives was still in the preliminary stages. The quality of the work seen by him is reported to have been up to specifications.

श्री कृष्णकान्त व्यास : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो सवाल हिन्दी में पूछे जाते हैं उनका जवाब हिन्दी में ही मिलना चाहिये। इस सवाल का जवाब मैं हिन्दी में ही चाहता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shastriji is here.

श्री लाल बहादुर : (अ) जी हाँ, यह सही है कि चेरमैन रेलवे बोर्ड जापान गये थे और वहाँ उन्होंने इस बात का इन्तजाम देखा, जो इंजन बन रहे हैं उनकी उन्होंने जांच की और उनको किस तरह से हिन्दुस्तान लाया जाय, उसका इंतजाम भी उन्होंने देखा।

लिये आर्डर दिये गये थे, उन इंजनों की जांच के लिए रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष जापान गये थे; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन इंजनों के गुणों के बारे में उन्होंने क्या प्रतिवेदन पेश किया है ?