

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, what exactly is the proportion?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I cannot tell that, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the whole scheme is to be worked simultaneously in all the endemic areas; or whether part by part is to be taken up?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we will begin from Andhra and proceed to Hyderabad (Raichur), then North Kanara, Dharwar, Mysore and Coorg.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have all the States agreed to work the scheme?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That goes without saying.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have examined the question of distributing vaccine free to these States?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, under the Project expenditure will be incurred on staff, equipment, transport, medical supplies, etc. and vaccine will be one of the items.

*125. [Postponed to (11th September 1954.)]

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS

*126. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to the supplementary questions asked in connection with my starred question No. 472 on the 26th April 1954, and state whether annual inspections of Government railways by the Government Inspectors of Railways have been restored?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Annual routine inspections over Government Railways have not been restored but • Government Inspectors are free to visit and

inspect aspects of Railway working at any time.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, is it not in the interests of better safety to have compulsory annual inspections?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the inspections have not been given up at all. Instead of annual routine inspections, the Government Inspectors are now free to choose any section of the Railways for their inspection and study its working.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, what considerations weighed with the Government in switching on from compulsory inspection to discretionary inspection? The Government Inspector was free to make discretionary inspections even before, but at that time it was compulsory for him to make annual inspections which have now been abandoned. My question is, what considerations have weighed with the Government in making this change?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, formerly what was happening was, these annual routine inspections were being carried out with a sort of big show and all that—a special train of the officers was going after the Government Inspector, etc. This has been dislocating the normal working of the Railways. Now Sir, we thought that instead of annual routine inspection, we will still satisfy the requirements of the statute by allowing the Government Inspector to pick and choose any section of the Railways for inspection and his report will be submitted to Government through the Chief Government Inspector of Railways.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, is it not a fact that as a result of abandoning these annual inspections there have been many regions which have not been inspected for more than a year; and is the hon. Minister aware that as a result of these annual inspections there was a general clean-up and bucking-up of all the Railways previously? This has now slackened.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not as if, even when they were carrying

out these annual inspections, every branch, every little section of the Rai as inspected. It was not so, and the hon. Member's assumption that because these annual routine rations have not been coming up there has been a slackening in the standards is not correct.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the hon. Minister remember what he said last namely, that the Jodhpur Division, the Bikaner Division and some of these Divisions have not been inspected for over a year and a half or over two years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, these annual inspections have been stopped only from the 1st August last. The hon. Member's information is that • these Divisions have not been inspected for over two years or one and a half years. It speaks against the assumption.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I will only remind the hon. Minister to study the reply which was given here on the floor of the House with reference to question No. 472 on 26th April 1954. I asked whether these Divisions have been visited annually or not.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has said that the annual inspections have been stopped only since last August.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the position of the Government Inspector has been compromised very considerably; and, as such, the Government Railway Inspectors are not likely to carry that importance which they used to carry before, and this is going to have a very adverse effect on the efficiency • of the Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is an inference.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: That is not an inference. I am asking a definite question. What are the hon. Minister's views?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not asking for any information.

PROF. G. RANGA (Andhra): Sir, in view of the fact that the abandonment of this annual compulsory inspection is likely to cause apprehensions in the minds of the people, by its possible relationship with the wave of accidents, would the hon. Minister be pleased to get a fresh technical examination made about this matter —about the abandonment of inspection.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes. Sir. I would like to make one point clear. It is not as if the railway administrations have abandoned their duty in the matter. Always the duty is cast on the shoulders of the railway administrations—the officers concerned—to see that the track is fit in every respect and the safety measures are being observed at all times. Because these annual inspections have been taken away, it does not mean that anybody is going to neglect the safety aspect of the Railways. That may be an erroneous impression.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: Do you provide for surprise inspections?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When the Government Inspector goes for inspection, naturally he has to inform the railway officers concerned, namely, the District or Divisional Officers and he has to take them along with him. It is not like inspecting a school in a surprise way.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that as against the Government Inspector of Railways, now not only the General Manager, but even the Divisional Superintendents have been taking out special trains for inspections?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Previously the General Manager used to go out on inspection tours.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that now for these inspections not

only the General Managers but even the Divisional Superintendents have been taking out special trains? Will you please deny this or correct me on this?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I did not give that as the only reason. I only said that the importance attached to the annual inspections is not such as it is assumed. Certainly even now when these Inspectors go out on inspection they may have special trains and if it is going to help in the performance of their duties and if they are entitled to it, they may be provided with these special trains.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, this does not answer my query.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: More than 7 minutes have been spent on this question. No more supplementaries. Next question.

DEVELOPMENT SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS OF CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

*127. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state—

(a) the number of years in which the Development Suspense Account of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is expected to be cleared;

(b) what was the amount under that Account on the 31st of March, in each of the years 1951 and 1953; and

(c) whether the creation of the above Account in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works had been approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) It is not possible to indicate the number of years in which the Suspense Account will be cleared at this stage. The clearance should commence when production in Chittaranjan stabilises

at a cost below the landed cost of locomotives.

(In lakhs)

(b) 31st March 1951 ... Rs. 12.57
31st March 1953 ... „ 12W89

(c) Specific approval of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was not obtained but the Audit Department was advised of the matter and the accounts of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works containing the balances under the Development Suspense Account have been certified by Audit.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether the annual accounts of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works have been published?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think they should have been published.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, the reasons for the railway department not consulting the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in the compilation of these accounts?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, Sir, this is a very well recognized commercial practice. Though the Comptroller and Auditor General was not specifically consulted, it has been approved by the Auditor.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Can the hon. Minister let me know the year to which the latest published accounts of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works relate?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I should like to have notice.

SCHEME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

*128. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any programme for large scale environmental sanitation;

(b) if so, when the programme is proposed to be launched; and