

Ayurvedic institutions and homoeopathic institutions are asked to be inspected by allopathic experts and if so, is it possible that they would be able to give a favourable report about them? I would like to have a reply to that.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I may say that the institution are judged according to the standards of work that they do. The State Governments and their Boards are responsible for all the help they give. The Centre only gives a little help if they feel that any particular work that they are doing is worthy of help.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND : This answer has to be followed by supplementaries. otherwise the answer does not become complete. When representation is made for giving certain help from the Centre for a homoeopathic institution, naturally the Centre refers the question to the State Government. Does the Centre lay down a directive that there should be some association of homoeopaths at the time of inspection of such an institution asking for help so that the homoeopaths would be in a better position to explain things?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : All the recommendations made to the States in regard to homoeopathy have been made in consultation with a small committee in which the large majority are homoeopaths.

DR. P. C. MITRA : For promoting the Ayurvedic system of medicine is there any institution which has been opened for imparting to the students the knowledge of modern scientific method of treatment for a particular disease and thereby enabling them to become specialists?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : The Centre has no such institution other than the Jamnagar Institute which is concerned purely with research in Ayurveda through modern methods and where persons trained in modern

medicine as well as in Ayurveda are working together.

DR. P. C. MITRA : If so, where?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : Jamnagar is the only institute under the Centre.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Public Health being a State subject, why is there this dual system of contributions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a question of larger policy.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I also wanted to ask the same thing. Whenever we ask a question on public health, the hon. Minister always replies prefacing her answer with the statement that it is a State subject. I should like to know whether the Central Government can in any way influence the States in regard to public health and medical matters or that is only a device to shirk the responsibility on the part of the Centre.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR : Sir, the Centre's work is defined but the Centre keeps very close contact with the States and the Centre's policies are generally accepted by the States also.

LAY OFF COMPENSATION FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

*467. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Starred Question No. 332 on the 16th March 1954 and state whether Government have arrived at any decision as to the application of the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1953, relating to lay off to the plantation industry?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : It has been decided to undertake the necessary amending legislation and a Bill will be introduced in Parliament as early as possible.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to understand, Sir, that this cannot be

done without undertaking any piece of legislation?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: It was felt that legislation was necessary and we are doing it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Was this necessity felt as a result of the discussions at the tripartite conference?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Yes, as a result of the tripartite conference.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How soon can we expect that amending legislation?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: "As early as possible". That is what I have stated in the answer.

DISCHARGE OR REVERSION OF CLERKS ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY

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

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of clerks on the Eastern Railway are going to be either discharged or reverted to lower grades under orders issued by the Railway Board recently;

(b) if so, what is the total number of employees who are likely to be affected;

(c) the period for which they have been in service; and

(d) the reasons why such orders have been issued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) The case of local recruits who have failed to qualify for permanent absorption is under consideration. No decision has yet been taken.

(b) Approximately 120.

(c) Most of them were appointed prior to 1st January 1950.

(d) No such orders have been issued so far.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Am I to take it that no decision about reversion or retrenchment has been taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: "No decision has yet been taken". It is there in the answer.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that most of these employees were recruited at the time of the war and that they have put in service of nearly ten years or so?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I will give some figures to the hon. Member. Out of 704 such recruits employed prior to 1st January 1950 492 were selected. Then in February 1954 all except 71 were selected and 49 failed to appear before the Service Commission. There remain 120 only whose cases are under examination. So out of the figure 704, except 120 who don't possess the necessary qualifications all have been absorbed.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: What is that last point, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says: About 704 were there. All of them have been absorbed except 120 whose educational qualifications are under scrutiny. No final orders have been passed on these.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But is it not a fact, Sir, that they were recruited knowing full well what their educational qualifications were and that they have been serving all these years quite efficiently?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not so. In fact they were definitely advised that they will have to appear before the Service Commission for the purpose of regularization of their appointment. They were definitely advised.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that most of them have been in service for nearly ten years or so?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not ten years. Such of those as were employed on the ex-B. N. Railway before 1st November 1949 were all ab-