

**FACILITIES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES
SUFFERING FROM T. B.**

*13. **SHRI B. RATH:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Railway Board have withdrawn the facilities provided for the Railway employees suffering from Tuberculosis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): No, the facilities which were available in Railway hospitals have not been withdrawn.

SHRI B. RATH: Have they been reduced?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have not been withdrawn, but have they been curtailed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, they have been increased, Sir.

SHRI B. RATH: What are the additional facilities granted at present?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have increased the accommodation available in our railway hospitals. In addition to that, we propose to reserve not less than 250 beds for the exclusive use of railway employees in Government T. B. sanatoria and other sanatoria.

SHRI B. RATH: What is the total number of beds available at present for railway employees in the T. B. hospitals?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Regarding railway hospitals I can collect the information and give it to the hon. Member. I do not have it just now with me.

SHRI B. RATH: And yet you say it has been increased. What is the number? Let us know.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It has increased; but I cannot give the hon. Member the actual figure, that I can say later.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it under the contemplation of Government to open up new T. B. hospitals for railway employees and if so, where?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We do not propose to build new sanatoria ourselves, but we propose to reserve beds in hospitals for railway employees.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Is it a fact that mattresses were reserved for T. B. patients in Vijayawada hospital in the same room in which there were other patients?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The reference is to T. B. patients?

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Yes.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have any such information.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Will the hon. Minister enquire into it?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Has T. B. increased among railway employees or decreased?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not purely a question of railway employees for it is a general question and perhaps the Health Minister will be able to answer it.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, when a question is put to her on a later occasion.

**REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CHARGES OF
THE DEPENDENTS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES**

*14. **SHRI B. RATH:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the Eastern Railway, the medical charges incurred on account of the treatment of the dependents of railway employees in railway quarters are not reimbursed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The answer is in the

affirmative. Free medical treatment to the dependents of Railway employees at their residence is not admissible under the rules.

SHRI B. RATH: Since when were these rules made?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Never was treatment at the residence admissible.

SHRI B. RATH: What is it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been there for a long time past.

SHRI B. RATH: Were people able to get free treatment earlier?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not in their residences. They were entitled to free treatment at the hospitals, not at their residences. That is my answer.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Is it a fact that you deny medical facilities to gangmen called E. L. R. gangs working continuously for a number of years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not if they are railway employees.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: I am talking of railway employees themselves, apart from their families.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not if they are permanent railway employees. All permanent railway employees get these medical facilities.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF JUTE AND COTTON

*15. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the acreage and estimated production of jute and cotton in 1953-54?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): Since the year 1953-54 has commenced only in July 1953, no esti-

mates for the year are yet available. In 1952-53, however, the area and production of jute were respectively 1.8 million acres and 4.7 million bales and those of cotton 15.7 million acres and 3.05 million bales.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know what are the productions per acre of jute and cotton in 1947-48, as compared to those in 1953-54?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not follow the question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know the production per acre, of cotton and jute, for 1947-48 as compared with that for 1952-53. 1954 is not yet over.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Does the hon. Member want the total?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, per acre.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have got a statement ready, Sir, giving the figures province-wise. I have not got the over-all figures here.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether the total production has increased after 1947-48?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not follow the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks whether the cotton production has increased after 1947-48.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. I can give those figures. The production has certainly increased.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In regard to jute, is it the Government's policy still to encourage production and if so what target has been fixed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, it is our policy to increase it, but we want better quality jute more than the inferior quality.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is the target for the increased quantity that