

while the State Government will bear the non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 4,00,000 and the expenditure on the maintenance of the Hospital. These proposals are under the consideration of the Government of India.

2. Hospital for Mental Diseases, Ranchi.—The Upgrading Committee observed that this Hospital could be upgraded to a first class training centre in psychiatry. The Committee recommended that both the short-term and long-term plans put up by the Superintendent of the Hospital should be implemented in stages to make the institution a first class psychiatric centre. They first recommended the short-term plan which would consist of a research unit, a psycho-surgical block, alterations to the existing staff quarters and the expansion of the existing laboratory. The question of upgrading this Hospital can be taken up only after the Government of India have taken over the institution under their supervision and control.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, how long it would take for the Government to come to a decision in the matter of accepting the proposals of the Government of Mysore for the Central Government's contribution of two lakhs of rupees?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Well, Sir, I would like to say that it is unfortunate that the Government of Mysore took so long to reply to the original proposals of the Government of India. Their proposals have only just come in, too late to be considered for this financial year, but, I should like to assure the hon. Member that we will consider them favourably and try to fit in this expenditure, if possibly we can, in the next financial year.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is the Institution at Ranchi to be entirely financed by the Centre or is the State Government going to share?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: It will be decided after it has been taken over by the Centre.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: When is the Ranchi Institution likely to be taken over by the Centre?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: Most probably next year; but, it is still under consideration.

ARRANGEMENT FOR REFRESHMENTS ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

***155. PROF. G. RANGA:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) who fixes the tariffs for meals and refreshments supplied by Messrs. Ballabhadras Eshwardas on the Grand Trunk Express trains;

(b) what is the rate of increase in such tariffs year-wise, since 1950;

(c) whether it is a fact that the quality of food has deteriorated though the tariff charges have been raised;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the accommodation provided in the refreshment cars is most inadequate;

(e) whether it is a fact that the milk supplied is of very poor quality, the vegetable curries contain no sustaining vegetables or other ingredients and some hot stuff which is not chilli powder or pepper is used in the preparation of those curries which has a bad effect on health;

(f) for how many years the said contractors have held the contract; and

(g) whether Government have any plan to improve the catering arrangements on these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The Central Railway.

(b) The tariffs are not annually revised but only from time to time with due regard to the prevailing prices of commodities and the standard and quality of service rendered by the caterers. The tariff in force in 1950 was revised twice, once on 1st April 1951 and again on 15th May 1952. The rate of increase from 1950 to 1953 has varied from 11 per cent. to 66 2/3 per cent. on the

various individual items of food and drinks supplied.

(c), (e) and (g). No specific complaints on this score have been received so far. But, complaints against the caterers were voiced by hon. Members in the course of discussion on the Railway Budget. Suitable action will be taken wherever necessary to improve the quality of service. It may, however, be added that recently the caterers have arranged to serve certain popular South Indian dishes.

(d) It is true that the accommodation provided in the refreshment cars is short of requirements, but at present other suitable stock is not available for replacement. The provision of more accommodation is, however, in hand.

-(f) Since 1943.

PROF. G. RANGA: Since 1943? Will my hon. friend make some enquiry and satisfy himself that the statement made that they have been there since 1943 is correct? They have been there for a much longer period than that.

Then, Sir, my hon. friend said that he had not received any specific complaint at any time. Is it not a fact, Sir, that my hon. friend, Mr. Alagesan, himself had been one of the passengers on many occasions on this railway and had been the victim of the kind of food that the caterers have been supplying?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that he has not received any complaints. Did you complain, Mr. Alagesan?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Sir, for how long is a contract given?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There is no time limit. The contract can be terminated with three months' notice on either side.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What is the procedure for giving contracts? Do you call others also for this? Is there any procedure?

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Are you calling any tenders?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The particular caterer was entertained in the year 1943. That is the information.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Since 1943 this contract was never put to auction or no other caterer was called. Is that correct?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The agreement which had been entered into is continuing and, I have said, that that agreement can be terminated by three months' notice.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: The question is whether this contract has been renewed since 1943.

PROF. G. RANGA: There was no renewing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he says is this: The contract is given subject to 3 months' notice. So long as they are satisfied with it and no specific complaints are received, the contract continues.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: Did I hear the hon. Minister correctly, Sir, that in one particular year, 1950 or 1951, the rates had been increased twice? If so, what was the increase in the first case and what was the increase in the second case?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it was increased on 1st April 1951 and on 15th May 1952. The rate of increase has varied from 11 per cent. to 66 2/3 per cent.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: I do not want the percentage. I want to know the exact price.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There are so many items and I should like to have notice.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that only one lump sum is charged for lunch and not for individual items?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, that is so for lunch, but, there are other items also and, any specific complaint, I can assure, Sir, will.....

MR. CHAIRMAN:.....receive your attention.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: I was not making any complaint. I was seeking in-

formation as to what exactly was the price charged for the meal on the first occasion and what exactly was the price charged on the second occasion.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Now, it is Rs. 2 and, I think, some time ago, it was Rs. 1/12.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know at how many stations this Ballabhadras Eshwardas is working as caterer?

SHRI B. RATH: He is working everywhere.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not in office as yet.

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

SHRI K. B. LALL: Do the Government propose, instead of having a permanent agreement, to have one for one year, for two years, for 3 years or for 5 years or something like that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is the caterer obliged to produce the complaint book on demand?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly, he maintains a complaint book.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the hon. Minister believe me, Sir, that when I asked for the complaint book, he refused to show it and, when I asked for the reason, he said that the Manager is not in the compartment?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This is a very specific complaint. I shall certainly look into it.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do the Government consider it necessary to change the procedure of giving contracts for catering?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

PROF. G. RANGA: I have yet to pursue, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

PROF. G. RANGA: I wanted to put supplementaries, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are concerned about *idli* and *dosa*. That is all right.

RENTS OF WAREHOUSES OF CALCUTTA PORT

*156. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rents of warehouses of Calcutta Port were increased after the year 1942;

(b) if so, (i) when, (ii) what was the rate of such increase, (iii) what was the total amount of rents realised after such increase, and (iv) what was the additional amount realised as a result of such increase?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) In the years 1943, 1946, 1947 and 1952.

(ii) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Council. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 58.]

(iii) and (iv). The information is not readily available and requires lengthy calculations. It is being collected by the port authorities and will be placed on the Table of the Council as early as possible.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the total amount that you collect per year?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is being calculated.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the amount that is realised by way of warehouse rent enough to maintain the staff employed by the Port Commissioners?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is one of the many heads under which moneys are collected by the port authorities, there is no separate account under this particular head.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the table given to me, there are three items, cotton piecegoods, cement and motor cars and, is it not a fact that in Bombay—