

Interests of the public shareholders are now the Government Directors?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Today there are eight Government Directors and three from Scindias?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think seven Government Directors and three Scindia Directors.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the profit that this company made during last year? And what is the dividend that the company declared?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Last year the dividend of 2 per cent, was declared.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the share the Managing Agents received out of the profits of that company?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Directors' Report gives all the information. If the hon. Member wants, I can give the information.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Is it a fact that the ships owned by the Eastern Shipping Corporation have been chartered by Scindias themselves?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I don't know. I would like to have notice.

KHWAJA IN AIT ULLAH: What is the amount paid to the Managing Agents besides the share in the profits?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is there in the Statement.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it one of the conditions of the original agreement that Scindias should be given this Managing Agency?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It form« part of the Agreement.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

*465. PANDIT S. DUBE: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to educate the public on "Planned Parenthood"; and

(b) if so, what means have been adopted for that purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASE-KHAR) : (a) and (b). Government have screened a film called "Planned Parenthood" in English and six other Indian languages. Three centres, two in Delhi and one in Ramanagaram in Mysore State have been opened where pilot studies in the rhythmic method of family planning are being conducted. A leaflet on the subject has been circulated in the Family Planning Centres and to individuals who asked for it. Married persons are being given advice on the Rhythm method in the Family Planning Centres.

PANDIT S. DUBE: May I know whether any work is being done in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: No, Sir. None that I know of.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: May I know, Sir, whether the wishes of both the sexes have Been duly ascertained with regard to the launching of this scheme of planned parenthood?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether a general plebiscite of both the sexes has been taken? That is what he asks.

(No answer.)

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the ultimate aims and objects of this planning?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: To check the growth of population.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA NAND: Is the Government aware.....

AN HON. MEMBER: May I know

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, let us hear the lady.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government aware that the method advocated by them is not considered practicable by experienced women doctors?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: People may have different opinions; the present method is only in the experimental stage.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Why is the Government partial to the rhythmic method alone?

(No answer.)

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government aware that the World Conference on Planned Parenthood held in Bombay advocated that the other method and not this rhythmic method was more suitable?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: We are aware of the resolution passed there. We are collecting more statistics and will come to a conclusion after considering all the information.

SHRI RAMA RAO: Why is Government making an experiment which is not going to succeed?

(No answer.)

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: When spending Government money is it not desirable that the experience of countries which have * practised the method before and the experience of doctors should be resorted to, rather than that experiments should be performed where the money is likely to be wasted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all a matter • of opinion.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is the

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mitra there ants to put a question.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Do Government think that they are feeding the population?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I Sir, that question does not arise.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Do Government ! think that they are the agent to feed the people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks whether Government is not the agent to feed the people. Have the Government undertaken the responsibility of feeding the population of the country? That is what he asks.

(No answer.)

DR. P. C. MITRA: Sir, I want an answer.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Are the Government aware

DR. P. C. MITRA: Sir, I have not yet finished. Are Government aware that no one is born on this earth until its mother's breasts are filled with milk for its food?

(No answer.)

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: The suggestion seems to be that if the Government have not undertaken the responsibility to feed the population, they have no right to enforce birth control methods.

BEGAM AIZAZ RASUL: May I know, Sir, how much money the Central Government have given to the State Governments for this purpose, State-wise?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: This year Rs. 3 lakhs have been set aside for this scheme.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Can Government tell us how much they have achieved by this method so far?

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can anybody say that?

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is the method of sterilisation successful?

(No answer.)

KHWAJA IN AIT ULLAH: May I know, Sir, if the Government have circulated this scheme among Members of Parliament?

(No answer.)

RAILWAY PLATFORM PASSES FOR PRESS REPRESENTATIVES

*466. SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether free platform passes used to be issued to representatives of newspapers in the city of Madras and the correspondents in the mofussil by the ex-South Indian and Madras and Southern Maratha Railways;

(b) whether that practice still continues; and

(c) if not, what is the reason for the withdrawal of that privilege to journalists?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) The old South Indian Railway used to issue free platform passes to Press correspondents both in the city of Madras and at stations in the mofussil, while the old M. & S. M. Railway allowed such passes only at Madras Central and that too for one reporter each of only four daily newspapers published there.

(b) and (c). The practice continues in a modified form. Free platform passes are issued to one representative each of the various dailies, giving a minimum freight revenue of Rs. 2,000 per annum on newspaper packets booked, the use of the passes being limited to the station from which the newspaper is published. In addition, platform permits for Press representatives at a concession rate of Rs. 10 per annum, as against Rs. 20 payable by public, on production of a certificate signed by the manager of the newspaper concerned that the applicant is a representative of the news-

paper, are issued. This modification was considered desirable in order to ensure uniformity of procedure on the entire Southern Railway after integration.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Have Government received any representation from the South Indian Journalists Federation to the effect that this privilege should be extended to the mofussil correspondents also?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this privilege is there in a modified form. They are required to pay only Rs. 10 whereas the public are required to pay Rs. 20.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: Is it a fact that previously the ex-South Indian Railway used to issue this privilege free of cost, that there was no question of any payment of money?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes. As I have stated in my answer on the ex-South Indian Railway these passes were issued free even to mofussil correspondents. The practice was not the same on the ex-Mysore and the ex-M. & S. M. Railways. After the integration, this uniform practice is being followed in a modified form.

SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN: My question was whether Government have received a representation from the South Indian Journalists Federation and if so what action has been taken on it.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There were representations received from the Federation that my friend has referred to and a Member of Parliament also represented about this matter. It was considered and the present arrangement has been considered satisfactory.

SHRI RAMA RAO: Is it not extraordinary that journalists should be charged anything at all when they are on public duty? Is it done anywhere in the world?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know whether people going on public