

be exclusively carried by our own ships?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not exclusively. To the extent our ships are in a position to carry them, Government cargoes will be carried by them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Does not the Government think it desirable that whenever we import large consignments of foodgrains and other commodities on Government account, our ships should exclusively carry them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have already replied to that.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Does not the Government think that our export trade should as far as possible be sent through our own Indian ships?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It will be rather difficult.

FOREIGN EXPERTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR HEALTH MINISTRY

*289. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign experts so far invited by Government in the Ministry of Health under (i) the Commonwealth Technical Assistance (Colombo Plan), and (ii) President Truman's Point Four Programme;

(b) the number of such experts who have arrived; and

(c) (i) whether any medical equipment has been also asked for from foreign countries; (ii) if so, how much of it has been received and what is the nature of such equipment?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) 11 under the Colombo Plan and 8 under the Point Four Programme.

(b) Nine under the Colombo Plan and 4 under the Point Four Programme.

(c) (i) Yes.

(c) (ii) The items of equipment received are surgical equipment for the work of the Orthopaedic Unit in the Irwin Hospital, New Delhi, and an electron microscope for the Cancer Research Centre, Bombay.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What is the Colombo Plan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a very large question.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The Colombo Plan was drawn up some years ago whereby the Commonwealth countries help each other.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What is President Truman's Point Four Programme?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I wonder if that question really arises out of this question. I should imagine that everybody ought to know what this means.

DR. P. C. MITRA: We want to know what is the Colombo Plan and what is President Truman's Point Four Programme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Her answer is that these are all general principles which have been in operation for some time,—both the Colombo Plan and President Truman's Point Four Programme.

DR. P. C. MITRA: We are ignorant of them.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Why?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The information is available. I am sure, on the Table of the House and in the Library.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know in what lines these are experts?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I have placed a statement on the Table of the House and from that, it is quite easy to see which are the experts who have been brought out.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Do the Government meet the expenses of these experts?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The Government meet certain of their expenses, that is to say, internal travel, suitable office and living accommodation, telephone, etc. and for the rest, their salaries, their fares out to India and back, all these are borne by the sponsoring countries.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Has any estimate been made of these expenses?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: In every case, an estimate is made.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Are they theoretical experts or are they practical experts?

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is whether these gentlemen who have come to assist you are merely trained in school-rooms and college-rooms or they have had any practical clinical training.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: They have great practical experience and they are well-known in their special lines.

DR. P. C. MITRA: From what institution did they qualify as experts?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The statement is very clear as to how many have come and for what purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The statement has not been circulated or laid on the Table of the House.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: If you have no objection, I could even now read out the names.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: No. no.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Statements are given to the Members concerned, but as far as possible copies should be laid on the Table also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the answer itself, there is no reference to the Statement.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: More than one copy of the statement may be supplied so that all those interested may refer to it.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know whether they have made any recommendations with regard to the way in which we can improve the health conditions and, if so, may I know what those recommendations are?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: They do not make any recommendations to us. They work. For example, the Nursing Sisters are teaching in our Nursing College. The nurses in our hospitals are being trained by them. There is no question of their advising on our programmes. That is our own business.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: They can see the health conditions here so that they might suggest remedies for them.

BEGAM AIZAZ RASUL: Has the Government considered the advisability of sending these experts to the different States or will they be confined only to their own centres?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: For example, there is one expert for the Physiology Department of Patna University; there is another for cancer research in the Cancer Research Institute in Bombay; there is a third expert, a protomologist, for the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta. They are distributed.

BEGAM AIZAZ RASUL: What is the duration of the stay of these people?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: It varies. May be one year, may be two years.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Has sufficient publicity been given in different centres about the existence of these experts?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The States are actually sending out people to be trained by these experts.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Are these experts available for consultations?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: They are not meant for consultations. They are meant for training purposes.

*290. [The questioner (Shri L. H. Doshi) was absent.]

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WHO OPTED FOR PAKISTAN AND RETURNED TO INDIA

*291. KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway employees who opted permanently for Pakistan, but did not go to Pakistan or returned to India, have applied to Government for re-instatement to their posts;

(b) how many of them have been taken back into service uptil now.

(c) what procedure is being adopted for selection of individuals out of them for appointment; and

(d) whether any instructions have been issued by the Railway Board to the officers concerned for recruitment of such persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No statistics are available of such persons who have applied for employment on Railways.

(b), (c) and (d). In accordance with the policy of Government, Pakistan Final Optees have no claim for employment under Government. But in some individual cases Government have agreed to re-employ such applicants after examination on merits.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: With reference to Home Ministry letter No 70'052-DGS, dated the 13th August 1952 it was made known to those persons that such persons can apply to the Government and they will be absorbed. I want to know how many have applied in reply to that circular and out of those applicants how many

have been taken and what procedure is being adopted to select them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, we have no information as regards the numbers who have applied but so far we have been able to take or re-employ 224 people.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What is the procedure of taking them, the way of selection?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Each case is examined on its merits and the man is re-employed or rejected.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What instructions have been given to the Headquarters of every zone regarding these people because they don't apply direct to you but they apply direct to the zones?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are the instructions. The case of each person has to be examined on its merits and decision taken.

*292. [The questioner (Shri Channa Reddy) was absent.]

RAILWAY CROSSINGS IN GAUHATI

*293. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway line from Pandu Station on the North Eastern Railway passes through the heart of the town of Gauhati and crosses important roads at 4 points;

(b) whether it is a fact that the railway gates at these crossings are controlled from the station;

(c) whether it is a fact that the gates are closed long before the departure of trains from the station and the traffic on these roads is, therefore, held up; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative what steps Government propose to take for the removal of the difficulties thus experienced by the public?