

Shri Dasappa: When will the programme be completed and the port be ready for utilisation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As at present targetted both the ports are expected to be completed by 1966-67, that is, during the first year of the Fourth Plan.

Election to Panchayats and Panchayat Samities

*393. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experience of Mysore State shows that the multiple-member constituencies eliminate to a considerable extent the possibilities of seeking support of the electorate on the basis of community, caste or sub-caste for elections to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Samities; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to advise the State Governments to adopt the Mysore system by making suitable amendments to the Panchayati Raj Acts?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Multiple-member constituencies have been conceived by the Mysore State Government to provide a broader base and flexibility in elections. No specific enquiry has been undertaken by the State Government to find out whether this system eliminates the influence of community, caste and sub-caste in the elections to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Samities.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Is it not a fact that the small constituencies give fillip to sectarian appeal where the candidate can woo the electorate ignoring the people other than their own communities?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Some hon. Members do hold such opinion.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Do the Government feel it expedient to expand the constituency and make it a multiple-member constituency?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Different States are having different types of constituencies. The Ministry is contemplating upon setting up a study team to go into this matter.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether the Centre has advised the State Governments to take steps to see that political parties do not interfere in panchayat elections?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it relevant?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think. It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether Government makes an effort to enquire from State Governments how far communalism in the States has played its role at the time of elections, whether panchayat elections or general elections?

Mr. Speaker: That is too general a question.

Indian Forest Service

*394. **Shri Oza:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to reconstitute the Indian Forest Service; and

(b) if so, what are its main features?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b). This question relates to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs will reply the same on the day allotted to that Ministry.

Medical facilities for Railway Employees

*395. **Shri Namblar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway administration are permitting employees to secure

medical treatment from private hospitals and dispensaries at Railway's cost due to the inadequacy of Railway medical services;

(b) whether medical certificates issued by qualified private medical practitioners are being accepted by the Railway Medical Department as a routine; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide adequate medical treatment and assistance to the railway employees?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. It may, however, be added that adequate facilities exist on Railways for medical treatment of Railways employees and their families.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether recoupment of expenses incurred by railway employees in private hospitals is permitted as in the case of other Departments; if not, why?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The position is this. If any person cannot be treated in the railway hospital and needs treatment in some other hospital, under authorisation by the railway medical attendant the employee may go there. Then he can produce the relevant bill and he will be paid.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Government have considered the question of grant of medical allowance to those who do not get the benefit of medical assistance in railway hospital?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Everybody gets the benefit of medical assistance.

Shri Nambiar: Those who do not get, who are far away from the railway hospital—whether they get the allowance.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister says that everybody gets it. How do I presume that some do not get it?

Shri Nambiar: Sir, it is impossible for every one of the 11 lakh railway employees to get medical assistance from the few railway hospitals. Is it practicable?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Apart from the stationary hospitals, there are mobile vans and touring medical officers, that is medical officers on tour. They get the benefit from them.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know whether the gangmen, the *Khalasis* and other Class IV and Class III staff posted at places where there is neither any Assistant Surgeon, Railways nor any other railway dispensary, when they produce medical certificates from private registered medical practitioners, get against such sick period leave granted to them against leave due to them, or is such period treated as leave without pay even though leave is due to them?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is too long and involved a question.

Mr. Speaker: He may put it again in order to make it more clear.

Shri Priya Gupta: When it is not possible for the Railways to provide medical treatment and other amenities to each of the staff posted *en route* and far away from the towns, may I know whether in those cases when the Class IV and Class III staff obtain medical certificates after sickness from private registered medical practitioners, they are granted leave due to them against the sick period or they are forced to go on leave without pay? And . . .

Mr. Speaker: Still the hon. Member is not satisfied with this question? Let this be answered.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The certificates issued by private doctors are scrutinised.

Mr. Speaker: He is asking about Class IV servants posted at places which are distant from the location of the hospitals, and he wants to know whether, when they get medical certificates from private doctors, they are entitled to get sickness benefits.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Provided the certificate is in order.

Shri Priya Gupta: They are forced to go on leave without pay.

Mr. Speaker: Now the hon. Member is giving some information.

Shri Priya Gupta: Mostly they are given L.W.P., that is leave without pay.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. If he has another question to put, he might formulate it, and not make a statement.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether, in considering these medical certificates obtained from private doctors, the Railway Ministry will follow the policy or the procedure adopted by other Ministries of the Union Government?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The policy followed by the Railway Ministry is quite good and satisfactory.

Shri Nambiar: This is no answer. Whether they will follow it?

Mr. Speaker: The answer is or rather could have been in these terms that it has a policy of its own which is distinct and it intends to follow that.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the definition of family is very restricted and even near relatives do not come under that definition and whether the Government is going to remedy it?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Definition of family has been laid down by the Home Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri Kumaran.

Shri Hem Barua: May I seek a clarification?

Mr. Speaker: From me?

Shri Hem Barua: From the Deputy Minister. He said, provided the certificate is in order. What does he mean by that?

Mr. Speaker: That is too long ago since we were at that stage. Shri Kumaran.

Technical Committee on Telephone Equipment

*396. **Shri M. K. Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Committee appointed to go into the question of the type of telephone equipment to be used in future has submitted their report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are their main recommendations?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):
(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Kumaran: In the Third Five Year Plan, the Indian Telephone Industries have a development programme estimated to cost Rs. 2.8 crores and there is a proposal to establish a second factory in our country. May I know, because of the delay in the committee submitting their report, whether this programme will be held up?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Committee was given a terms of reference which was very important. They had to collect information from various countries. They have done that and I understand they are in the process of drafting their report.

Shri Kumaran: The hon. Minister Dr. Subbaroyan said in the House during the last session that the report