

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

of the committee will be in his hands by the end of April. May I know why there is delay in submitting the report?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said, they are in the process of drafting their report and it is expected that during the course of this month it will be submitted.

Shri Kumaran: My other question has not been answered: whether the development programme will be held up because of the delay in the committee submitting their report.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The development programme cannot be considered unless we know what are the technical improvements that we will have to apply in the manufacture of new improved equipment.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether the hon. Minister is satisfied with the performance and efficiency of the telephone equipment manufactured in the Indian Telephone Industries Bangalore?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking for an opinion.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is a matter of opinion.

**Konkan Coast Line Service by
B.S.N. Co. Ltd.**

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*398. { Shri Dighe:
Shri Nath Pai:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri V. B. Gandhi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bombay Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., has declared that it would close its Konkan coast line service after the monsoons if Government does not permit an increase in the passenger fare and grant its other demands;

(b) what are the demands of the Company;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of these demands; and

(d) how Government propose to avoid the probable closure of the Steamer Service?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement indicating the position in respect of (a) to (d) is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The Company has demanded that—

- (1) the recommendations of the Konkan Coastal Shipping services Committee viz. an immediate increase in passenger fares by 8%, an interest-free loan from the Central Government for purchase of 3 new ships, an annual subsidy of Rs. 1.89 lakhs from the Govt. of Maharashtra and a further increase of 7% in fares when the new ships are put into service should be accepted; and
- (2) till the new ships are commissioned, the Government should reimburse to the Company the extra cost of repairs of the ships over and above the sum of Rs. 9.5 lakhs per annum estimated by the Committee.

However, with the recent merger of Goa with Indian territory and the consequent resumption of the steamer service to Goa, a new factor has been introduced which necessitates a review of the recommendations of the Konkan Coastal Shipping Services Committee for increase in fares and subsidy to the Company, since one of the important reasons given by the Company for its losses was the suspension of the service to Goa in 1955. Meanwhile the company has informed Government that unless its demands are immediately met, the steamer