

(b) No definite date has yet been fixed.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some years ago, the then Railway Minister said that this class would be abolished within a couple of years. May I know why there is so much delay in doing away with this class?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I have submitted, we have abolished it on certain sections. But the second class is still very popular on long-distance trains. We are trying to provide sleeping accommodation in third class compartments, and as soon as we are satisfied that there is sufficient accommodation, and people would not be put to great inconvenience as a result of this change, we shall abolish II class.

Shri Tangamani rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question. There are as many as 57 questions on the Order Paper, and each question becomes important.

Shri Tangamani: Only one supplementary has been allowed on this question.

Mr. Speaker: I shall allow the hon. Member to ask two supplementary questions on the next question.

Primary Health Units in States

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*426. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hasda:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of doctors trained at the College of Integrated Medicine being appointed as officers in charge of Primary Health Centres has been considered; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The matter was considered at a Conference of State Health Ministers held at New Delhi in June-July 1957.

(b) The consensus of opinion at the Conference was that the doctors trained at the College of Integrated Medicine should not be appointed as officers-in-charge of Primary Health Centres.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what the difficulties are in placing them in charge of the health centres, especially in view of the fact that there is shortage of medical personnel in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: The primary reason as given in the recommendations of the conference was:

"Taking into consideration the functions of the officer in charge of a primary health centre, who is the key-man to develop the health services and who is to co-ordinate the work of other workers, the concensus of opinion at the Conference was that the doctors trained at the College of Integrated Medicine should not be appointed as officers in charge of primary health centres."

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that many primary health units could not be opened because of shortage of medical personnel? If so, would Government appoint these persons temporarily and help in opening the centres?

Shri Karmarkar: We are not aware that this problem has arisen in many places. It was principally the Government of Madras that had written to us. We have not yet received information from the other Governments about the difficulties. If we do, then we shall give it greater attention.

Procurement of Rice

*429. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are procuring rice and paddy from other States either direct or through their agencies;

(b) whether the procurement price paid by the States is the same as that of the Central Government price or there is any difference; and

(c) whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government to procure rice for them, where the Central Government agencies are working?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Kerala.

(b) No, Sir; the rates paid by the State Government were slightly different.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know the agency through which the Kerala State Government are procuring rice, and also the commission given by them to that agency?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The State Government of Kerala purchased 5,000 tons of Dalwa rice from Andhra Pradesh through the agency of Messrs. T. Sreeramulu P. Surayanarayana & Co., Madras

Shri I. Eacharan: May I know the margin of commission given to this company?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The information given by the State Government indicates that the prices paid by the Kerala Government were Rs. 18-7-3 per maund for 3,160 tons and Rs. 18-1-3 per maund for another 1,840 tons. The State Government also informed us that they paid a commission of five annas per bag for the first purchase, and four annas per bag for the second purchase. We do not know whether that commission is included in the purchase price or not.

Shri Tangamani: The Kerala State Government are directly purchasing from the surplus area in Andhra Pradesh. In the south zone, Madras State also is a deficit State. May I know whether the Madras State Government are directly purchasing or whether the Central Government are arrang-

ing for the purchase and distribution of rice in the deficit State of Madras?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We are not arranging for any purchase on behalf of the Government of Madras or on behalf of any other Government. Whatever we procure is procured on behalf of the Central Government.

Mr. Speaker: Shri V. P. Nayar.

Shri Tangamani: May I know. . .

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri V. P. Nayar now. The hon. Member may have a little time to think over and ask the question in the proper manner.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The Minister stated that 5,000 tons had been purchased on behalf of the Government of Kerala, through private agency. May I know whether before arranging it through the private agency, they had requested the Central Government to arrange for supply of rice which is needed for the State, and if so, the action taken thereon?

Shri A. P. Jain: This is rice directly purchased by the State Government. So far as the Centre is concerned, we agreed to supply them a certain quantity and we have supplied that quantity, perhaps a little more than that.

Shri Tangamani: Out of the quantity purchased by the Central Government in Andhra Pradesh, may I know how much is being supplied to the Madras State each month?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are supplying Madras 4,000 tons per month for November and December. This is out of our purchases in Andhra as well as from imported stocks.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether there was any change in agency recently, and whether the Kerala Government is using the same agency as the Central Government were having for the purchase of rice from Andhra?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have no information about it.

Shri Anthony Pillai: The hon. Minister has stated that the prices paid by the Kerala Government are different from those paid by the Central Government. May we know what exactly is the difference?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They paid a little higher for coarse rice. We were procuring at the rate of Rs. 17 whereas they paid Rs. 18-7-3 and Rs. 18-1-3.

Dairy Scheme in Punjab

*432. **Shri Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation or any other country's aid to start dairying in Punjab carries certain strings with it;

(b) whether the aid is received directly by the State Government or through the Central Government; and

(c) whether the Government of India is getting reports about the progress made in dairying from the State Government?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No.

(b) Through the Central Government.

(c) Yes. The schemes are being implemented by the State authorities in close collaboration with the Government of India and the reports about the progress made are being received from the State Government.

Sirhind Accident

*433. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Frontier Mail bound for Amritsar on the 3rd October, 1957 met with an accident at Sirhind Railway Station and the engine of the train derailed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Sahasrwar Khan): Yes; at about 5-53 hours on 3rd October, 1957, No. 31 Up Frontier Mail entered the dead end siding at Sirhind station resulting in the derailment of its Engine.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In view of the repeated accidents, is there a proposal to appoint a high power authority to go into their causes and suggest ways and means to avoid future recurrence?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is an agency, and I feel a very efficient agency, for looking into the causes of all the accidents, namely, the Government Inspector of Railways. As the House is aware, a Committee was appointed to go into all the aspects of accidents and its report is before the House. It is not proposed to appoint any fresh Committee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the recommendations of the various inquiry committees have been implemented to avoid future accidents? If so, what are the specific recommendations?

Mr. Speaker: Are we to go into all the recommendations of the various committees?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Certain aspects.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly ask an unstarred question and I will get the answer.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there were any casualties in this accident?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There were no casualties.

Construction of "The State of Andamans"

*435. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Easwara Iyer:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri Jagannatha Rao:
Shrimati Masda Ahmed:
Shri N. E. Munsamy:

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

(a) what was the original estimate for the construction of the Ship "The