

given to the Hubli-Hyderabad, Sholapur Pradesh passenger associations on the divisional railway users' consultative committee as reconstructed this year, and if so may I know the reasons?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I am sorry I have not got the information. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the zonal committee for the Southern Railway has been formed; if so, how many names are common in the previous and the new lists?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: We have not analysed it. I require notice.

Shri Tangamani: Has that new committee been formed?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants notice.

Shri Tangamani: The question is whether the council has been formed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he had known a part of it, he must have answered that part of it at least.

Sleepers for Railways

*2000. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of sleepers were being procured from Kashmir State to meet the requirements of the Railways;

(b) whether there has been any reduction in the supply of timber sleepers from Kashmir during the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswami): (a) Yes, Sir. The State is supplying sleepers to the Indian Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) Frequent floods in the Valleys resulting in washing away lakhs of cubic feet of sawn timber to Pakistan.

(ii) Increase in cost of labour wages.

(d) The matter has been jointly examined in detail with the State Government and an agreement has been reached with them for supply of 4,15,000 sleepers during the period January 1958 to October 1959.

Shri Yajnik: May I know how many sleepers have been imported from Kashmir for railway purposes during the last two years?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I can give him for three years. The receipts during the last three years from Jammu and Kashmir were as follows:

1955-56	..	1,37,000 numbers
1956-57	..	1,25,000 numbers
1957-58	..	72,000 numbers

Shri Yajnik: May I know if this drastic reduction in the import of timber or sleepers is due to the negligence of the Kashmir Government, or is it due to the negligence of the Railway Ministry in not getting this timber or sleepers in time?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I have already stated the reasons why we are not able to get enough.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the Railway Ministry is importing a good number of sleepers from foreign countries because we are short, and if so, may I know the reasons for refusing the offer of the Andhra Pradesh Government for the supply of timber of particular sizes?

Shri S. Y. Ramaswami: Owing to the Second Five Year Plan, there is all round demand for timber, and the position has worsened generally in the eastern countries. Now, we require about 230 lakhs of sleepers. All of this we are not able to procure from our own country during the Second Plan. Therefore, we have programmed to import wooden sleepers about 42. lakhs, from abroad.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: May I know the percentage of our requirements of railway sleepers that is being procured from Kashmir and the percentage that is imported from abroad?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I cannot exactly give the percentage, but I can give the numbers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is the percentage that is wanted. If that is ready, that may be given, and not the details.

Shri Khimji: May I know whether wooden sleepers are slowly and gradually replaced by cement sleepers in Indian Railways as is done in other countries, and if so, how they compare as to their cost and durability?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: We are trying; as a matter of fact, during the Second Five Year Plan, we are going to use indigenous timber, imported wood, cast iron, steel and concrete. We are going to use all these different types of sleepers.

Shri Heda: The later part of my question was not answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Private Practice by Doctors in Medical Colleges

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*2001. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Jagadish Awasthi:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to stop private practice by the doctors in various medical colleges; and

(b) if so, whether any non-practising allowance is likely to be granted?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Private practice by doctors employed in the medical colleges under the control of the Central Government is not allowed.

(b) Non-practising Allowance at the rates of Rs. 250 p.m., Rs. 150 p.m., Rs. 100 p.m. and Rs. 50 p.m. is allowed

to Professors, Readers, Lecturers and Demonstrators respectively.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Are there honorary surgeons and honorary physicians in the hospitals, and if so, what is the rule with regard to those persons? Can they have private practice?

Shri Karmarkar: There are no honorary doctors in our hospitals under the Government of India.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the Central Government have asked the various State Governments with regard to following this procedure in their respective hospitals?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, we had asked for information. We did not get complete information, and I did not like to trouble the House with partial information. But I have received information from Bihar, which is as follows:

"All posts of medical officers (non-clinical subjects except pathology) at Darbhanga Medical College, and some posts at Patna Medical College, declared non-practising. Non-practising allowance paid to them. Proposal to declare some teaching posts (clinical subjects) at two medical colleges under consideration."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: This particular policy has been implemented in West Bengal, but there is a lot of confusion. I would like to know whether the Indian medical associations of the various States are also being consulted in this matter so as to work out a properly graded system for the doctors?

Shri Karmarkar: There is a little confusion in my mind about the precise scope of the question, as to whether it is in respect of non-practising allowance being allowed or in respect of whole-time teaching professors in colleges.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The whole question that private practice will no longer be allowed to doctors has given rise to various complications, because there are various categories of