

Chittaranjan produced locomotive is Rs. 4.77 lakhs. But a comparison would not be fair.

Shri Prabhat Kar: What is the term of reference to the arbitrator?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The term of reference is whether the price of 200 locomotives delivered or to be delivered by Messrs. Tata Locomotive and Engineering Co., Ltd., to Government during the period 1st April, 1958 to 31st March, 1960 should be Rs. 3,92,961 per locomotive as had been quoted by the Company or Rs. 3,74,984 per locomotive as has been offered by the Government as calculated by them.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: What is the imported cost of a similar locomotive from other countries, say Japan?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We have not imported any metre gauge locomotive since 1955.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: What is the price charged?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Since 1955 we have not imported any.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: What is the basis for this difference of charges offered by Government and claimed by the Company?

Mr. Speaker: Should it be investigated here?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: On what basis have they put the price at that figure?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The differences are on various items. Because there is a difference between the price offered by the Railway Ministry and the price quoted by the Company and because we could not agree, the matter has been referred to arbitration.

Mr. Speaker: The matter is in the arbitrator's hands.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Why not give it to the Tariff Commission instead of referring to a Judge as an arbitrator?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Of course, on the last occasion the matter was referred to the Tariff Commission. But this time we thought that since the issue was very limited—the difference between Rs. 875,000 and odd and Rs. 393,000 and odd—it should be referred to one-man arbitration so that the matter could be settled earlier.

Contributory Health Scheme

*1360. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Contributory Health Scheme is facing difficulties due to paucity of doctors and other medical staff;

(b) whether the Government servants as well as doctors have been complaining about it; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 124.]

Shri Tangamani: In the statement I find that there are as many as 4 lakhs of people who are covered by the scheme but there are only 40 medical officers at present. It works out at one doctor for 10,000 employees. May I know how many more doctors are proposed for this year and how many will be taken in?

Shri Karmarkar: The 40 medical officers including 11 specialists were employed at the commencement of the scheme in 1954, when the number of beneficiaries was 2,23,000. But, at present the number of doctors is 181 including 30 specialists; and 44 additional medical men are proposed to be appointed.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the proportion will be kept at one per thousand as in the E.S.I. Scheme?

Shri Karmarkar: We are trying to give as adequate service as possible. We have no fixed percentage—so many medical men to so many patients. If a certain dispensary requires more of medical men and there is greater crowd there, then we will try to supplement the strength.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the civilian Defence employees numbering about 8,000 are deprived of the benefits of this scheme because their places of work are Delhi Cantt. and Shakhurbasti? Why this discrimination?

Shri Karmarkar: Civil employees under the Government of India?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The civilian Defence employees of the Government of India. Their place of work is Delhi Cantt. though they are living in Delhi proper and New Delhi.

Shri Karmarkar: I do not know. I should like to have notice for giving the precise answer. We are trying to cover as much as possible all the Government of India servants who are entitled to the benefits of the scheme.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Will the hon. Minister tell us how the cost per capita has worked out as compared with the estimates that were prepared at the beginning of the scheme?

Shri Karmarkar: The scheme naturally increased in accordance with the increase in the number of the beneficiaries. The necessary services and costs also went on progressively increasing. As I said earlier the figure was 2,23,000 and the Budget expenditure was Rs. 15,87,805 for 1954-55. The number of beneficiaries today is about 4 lakhs and our expenditure last year—1957-58—was Rs. 40,73,750. Our receipts have also increased. In 1954-55, it was a part year and so I must give the figure for 1955-56. Our expenditure was Rs. 27,32,342; and our receipts were Rs. 16,55,601. For 1957-58, as against the expenditure figure

I mentioned earlier, the receipts have also increased to Rs. 23,46,444. That is the position.

Shri Dasappa: May I know when these additional 44 posts were sanctioned; and how many of them have since been filled?

Shri Karmarkar: I said, it is proposed to add these subject to the normal routine processes if these posts are found to be necessary.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know the number of beneficiaries who report at the dispensaries on the average per day and the number of doctors who serve them?

Shri Karmarkar: The number of doctors I have already given including the specialists. On an average, the daily attendance in the dispensaries has risen up to 10,676 every day at all the dispensaries. The total number treated during that year is 32,50,930.

Shri Tangamani: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that in Paharganj where there are 4 government colonies there is only one dispensary and the dispensary in Sadr Bazar has been abolished as a result of which people have to travel long distances and most of them have to go to private doctors, in spite of being beneficiaries of this scheme?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of this particular instance mentioned. But, it sometimes happens that, owing to the irregular dispersal of the number of Government employees in different places, at a particular dispensary the Government servants find much inconvenience. At other places where there is a concentrated strength of Government employees like Vinay Nagar or Lodi Colony, they are obviously receiving better service. But, at places where the number of beneficiaries are scattered, we are helpless in the matter.