

Practitioners concerned to their proposed draft amendment No. F.1-69/D-57 to Drug Rules, 1946 defining the term "Registered Medical Practitioner"; and

(b) the Government's decision in the matter?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) No decision has been taken so far.

Shri Goray: In view of the fears entertained by a section of medical practitioners, may I know how soon Government will take a decision?

Shri Karmarkar: We shall give the best possible consideration and we shall take only such time as is necessary for consideration of all the representations that have been made. In any case, there need not be any fear that any action will be taken that will not meet with full consideration of the full strength of their representations.

Shri Goray: I wanted to know how soon the decision will be taken.

Shri Achar: With regard to drugs you are having a new rule and this new rule refers to registered medical practitioners. May I know whether the Central Government will wait until legislations in all States are passed with regard to registered medical practitioners?

Shri Karmarkar: The States have no legislation to pass. They have maintained a list of registered medical practitioners. The point that has arisen on account of the proposed rule is that it seeks to prohibit certain classes of people excepting registered medical practitioners. Representations have been made as to what precisely is covered by the term "registered medical practitioners". I agree that the language lends to ambiguous construction and that has been the reason for these representations. We have consulted the State

Governments also, and we are trying to evolve a formula by which much of the grievances will be redressed.

Shri Goray: In view of the fact that public opinion was invited before the 20th February, may I know how soon they will take a decision or how many days will the Ministry take to decide this issue?

Shri Karmarkar: We are awaiting the reactions of the State Governments in the matter and in any case I should not think that it should take very long.

Shri Achar: May I know whether the *status quo* at least will be maintained and the rule not changed until the matter is legislated upon?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. The *status quo* will not be changed until the matter is finally decided by us in consultation with the State Governments. We have not changed the *status quo*. Matters are going on as they were going on before, and unless we change the matters they will not change.

Shri Achar: What I wanted to know was

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member is apparently a lawyer. He wants to know whether it requires modification by legislation or by executive orders.

Shri Karmarkar: For executive orders, it does not require legislation. We have taken care to see that no interest is affected until all these matters are gone into and we come to a final conclusion. We have not disturbed anything.

Attack on a Lady Traveller

+

*1532. { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Balakrishnan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Delhi *Hindusthan Standard* dated 31th March, 1950 that a lady Smt. Manorama Kapur, who

was travelling in Second Class by the Delhi bound Pathankot Express was attacked and thrown out of her compartment by a robber near Jhansi;

(b) if so, what are the full details of this incident; and

(c) the steps taken in regard thereto?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) and (b). Kumari Manorama Kapur was travelling by 197 Down on 10-3-1959 night from Khandwa to Delhi in a Second Class compartment. As she would be left alone in the compartment after Jhansi the train Guard advised her to bolt the doors inside and she did so. Between Karari and Datia stations, a man appeared on the foot-board of the compartment and entreated her to open the door saying that he was a Railway Servant and was losing his hold. Kumari Manorama, out of pity opened the door and the man got into the compartment and attacked the girl and threw her out of the compartment after relieving her of her wrist watch. The girl after regaining consciousness walked to a nearby village and narrated her tale of woe to the villagers there. The District Police and the Station Master of Karari were duly informed. She was taken to Civil Hospital Jhansi for treatment.

(c) The case is still under police investigation.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know if any arrests have been made yet, or whether anybody suspected of anything like that has been taken up by the police?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: As far as I am aware, no arrest has been made so far.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: In a case like this, where the lady was travelling alone in the compartment, could not some sort of apparatus be installed, in between that compartment and the guard's compartment, so that

she could have called the guard before opening the door?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: She was travelling in the ladies' second class compartment. There were catches and bolts inside and she was told to bolt the compartment from inside. The only thing was that somebody entreated her to open the compartment and she, out of pity, could not resist the temptation of opening the door.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. lady member should be a little more hard-hearted!

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: She could have pulled the alarm chain.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any railway police personnel were also travelling in that train? They could have then seen this man boarding the foot-board and, if so, may I know what action has been taken by them?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: As far as I am aware, no railway police was travelling on this train and they therefore did not see anybody.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It was being discussed that the railway police will be given enough protection. I do not know why the police did not travel in the train in this case. In every train, there are three or four constables who travel. That is my information. I want to know why in this train it was not done.

Shri Shah nawas Khan: Every passenger train is not escorted. I may add that even if some constables travelled in that train, I do not think it would have made any difference, because it was a moving train. The man comes at the foot-board, asks the lady to open the door and she opens the door and he throws her outside. What is to be done?

Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—

Mr. Speaker: Who can help any person who invites somebody?

Shri S. M. Bhanerjee: It is a moving train that man might have boarded the train at the time when the train was on platform.

Mr. Speaker: If he got into it when the train was moving, what happens?

Shri S. M. Bhanerjee: The news came in the newspapers. There is no addition to that now.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether the hon. Member has had any experience of that kind.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know why the guard did not lock the door himself, instead of asking her to bolt it?

Mr. Speaker: Then he must have got into the compartment. I am really surprised at such questions.

Shri Vajpayee: The door can be locked from outside. It can be.

Mr. Speaker: It can be equally opened from outside. I am really surprised that the hon. Members are not alive to what is happening almost every day. Even assuming the door is locked from outside, it can be opened. Every hon. Member may have a key with him—not here. Formerly, a number of people had keys with them, and if a thief does not have a key he brings a key! Therefore, the only safety is to lock the door from within. If the lady locks it she does not want any help from anybody to open it. Who can prevent it?

Shri Vajpayee: The lady should not be allowed to open the door!

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Free Trade Zone

+

*1533 { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Sardar A. S. Saigal:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Ques-

tion No. 260 on the 4th December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the scrutiny and consideration of the scheme for setting up of a Free Trade Zone at Kandla Port has since been completed;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken;

(c) whether Government have looked into the circumstances under which the Indian Council of Foreign Trade had advertised to acquire some land near the Bombay Port in connection with its move for having a Free Trade Zone there; and

(d) if so, with what result?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The advertisement referred to has not come to the notice of Government. The Bombay Port Trust are not aware of any move by the Council for the establishment of a free trade zone at the port. No such proposal is also under the consideration of Government.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know how far the creation of a free trade zone in this port will affect the utilisation of this port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If a free trade zone comes into being at the port of Kandla, naturally it will give a fillip to industries in that area and it may also promote the trade and commerce from that port.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether there is any proposal to create such zones in other ports?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is the first proposal of its kind that we have under consideration. I think the case of other ports can only come when this experiment succeeds.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know what exactly is meant by a free trade zone?