

Shri Karmarkar: By way of correction I would add. (Interruptions). I would like to make a small correction to what my hon. friend has said. It is rather a serious matter. The New Delhi Municipal Committee is put under us for answering questions. But the nomination of members to the N.D.M.C. will be done by the Home Ministry without consulting us. They need not consult us. So, when the present President resigned..... (Interruptions). I am not complaining. I must make the position clear. Supposing someone asks a question in Parliament about the appointment of the Chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. I am not complaining, but I have to make my position clear—the Home Ministry make that nomination without consulting us. I am not complaining at all. I do not know why hon. Members are treating it lightly. But, if a question is tabled, naturally, because it has been so provided that these subjects are with the Health Ministry, the Health Ministry answers that. The Health Ministry tries to answer that as responsibly as it can in consultation with the Home Ministry.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The same thing with Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am concerned only with the democratic set-up of this Parliament. The hon. Ministers here are collectively responsible to Parliament. And, in so far as portfolios have been distributed among the various Ministers, not only is it primarily their duty to answer questions here but also to keep themselves in touch and make themselves responsible for the answers they give here. Though I said that the Question Hour ought not to be utilised for the purpose of eliciting an assurance, the hon. Minister, of his own accord, said that he was prepared to do that though not in the form of an assurance. (Interruption). Order, order. From what he has said just now I find this is the business of the Home Minister. But with what courage did he say that he will try to do it?

The other day the hon. Education Minister said that he merely answered question here; but so far as the department is concerned, it is not directly under him. This kind of anomaly must be removed as early as possible.

On a prior occasion the hon. Health Minister said in connection with the sewage water getting mixed up with the water supply, that he was merely responsible for answering the questions..

The House expects the hon. Minister who answers questions to be naturally responsible for the administration. Therefore, the sooner this anomaly is removed the better for this House. I would not, hereafter, allow hon. Ministers who are not directly in charge of the administration to answer questions here except when they act for some other and that too only in exceptional cases and not every day.

Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal

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*331. { Shri Wadiwa:
Shri Rajiah:
Shri B. C. Mullick:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2243 on the 6th May, 1959 and state:

(a) how many cases of accidents have gone to the Motor Accidents Claims-Tribunal for adjudication during the last two of financial years;

(b) steps taken by Government to give publicity about the tribunal; and

(c) what improvements have been made in school bus arrangements after the accident of 23rd April, 1958 in Lodi Road, New Delhi?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) 1957-58	3
1958-59	52

(b) Information regarding the appointment of the Tribunal was published in the local newspapers in March, 1958 and again in May, 1959.

(c) The School buses are being inspected jointly by a Board consisting of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) and Motor Vehicle Inspectors of the Transport and Police Departments. The school authorities have been asked to replace their old vehicles by better vehicles of the latest models. The Traffic Police also check the vehicles on the road to prevent overloading as well as use of vehicles which are not roadworthy. As a result of these steps, there has been a considerable improvement in the condition of school buses

Shri Wadiwa: May I know why such a serious accident of 23rd April, 1958 has not yet been compensated by the owners of the vehicles and the Premier Life Insurance Co, a non-tariff company?

Shri Raj Bahadur: For the award of compensation and for the determination of the compensation to be awarded a specific procedure is laid down. The party concerned has got to apply and make a claim to the Tribunal which has been appointed for this purpose. The Tribunal goes into the merits of the case and then awards the compensation. The number of compensation cases would depend on the number of people who have claimed compensation.

Shri Wadiwa: May I know whether the steps taken by Government for publicity are inadequate?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think we have given several advertisements in the

papers; and here in Parliament also, by interpellations or otherwise, it has been brought to the notice of the people. We shall try to do whatever we can. We are also showing some cinema slides to educate the people in regard to traffic and other regulations and the traffic precautions that are in operation.

Shri Wadiwa: Do not Government think that the 90 days limit is a short limit?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That may be according to the rules. I cannot exactly say what the procedure is

Women Pilots

*936. **Shrimati Masda Ahmed:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

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

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to Press reports (*vide* "Statesman" Calcutta edition, July 11, 1959) regarding the allegedly strong bias against employing qualified women as pilots in nationalised airlines; and

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to discourage women going in for such assignments?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Indian Pilot Licences are granted to all applicants, irrespective of sex, subject to their fulfilling the requirements of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937. Women candidates are also eligible for admission to the various courses for pilots at the Civil Aviation Training Centre. In view of the tremendous strain involved in Commercial operation of airlines, the Indian Airlines Corporation and the Air India International Corporation, have not so far, employed any women pilot

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it is a fact that the