

Shri Hathi: The eventualities would not arise always. The maximum capacity to which the water could be discharged has been fixed at 17,000 cusecs; water would not be released for more than that capacity, in any case.

Regulations for Carrying Life Boats on Passenger and Cargo Ships

*1877. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to revise the regulations regarding carrying life boats on passenger and cargo ships;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the security arrangements for the passengers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Life saving appliances carried on board unberthed passenger ships are governed by the rules framed under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1948, and Simla Rules, 1931. These Rules provide for floatation for all on board, the floatation being obtained by life boats and buoyant apparatus. These are considered reasonably adequate.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how often these life-saving devices are checked? If so, by whom are they checked?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Normally they are checked at every survey of the vessel.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether both the passenger ships and cargo ships carry these life-saving devices, the life-boats or whether only the passenger ships carry them?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They carry according to the directions given to

them. The passenger ships, particularly, have to comply with the directions. As I said just now, the unberthed passenger ships have to carry these life-saving appliance for all on board.

Delivery of Express Letters and Telegrams in Rural Areas

*1878. **Shrimati Manjula Devi:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state what steps are being taken for quick delivery of express letters and telegrams in rural areas?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): The question of effecting improvement in the E.D. Service and making changes in the system is under active consideration of Government. As an experimental measure the work of delivery of E. D. articles has been transferred from telegraph offices to Post Offices in Delhi and New Delhi with effect from 1. 5. 1961 and the working of the system is being watched. In regard to telegrams more telegraph offices are being opened in rural areas.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: May I know whether the part-time staff in the post offices in the rural areas will be replaced by full-time staff because the part-time staff pay half-hearted attention in fulfilling their duties?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am not able to hear a word of the hon. lady's question.

Mr. Speaker: Will the part-time staff be replaced by permanent staff because, according to her, the part-time staff do not attend to this work diligently?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: As I have said, the whole matter is under consideration; and the expenses will have to be calculated before we decide what we can do under the circumstances we are placed in.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether a system of inventive awards is going