

spares, engines, customs and so on is Rs. 284 lakhs.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether because of this rupee payment, we have to pay any higher price than what we paid when the purchase was made in foreign exchange and if so, what is the difference in price per plane?

Mr. Speaker: Because they have accepted rupee payment, are we paying anything more?

Shri Mohiuddin: We have purchased the planes on the price that they would charge in gilder to any other operator buying it from any other country paying it in gilder.

Mr. Speaker: There is no excess paid.

Shri C. D. Paande: In view of the fact that there is a virtual breakdown in the Airlines Corporation these days and there is no service going regularly with full quota, may I know whether the Government is proposing to have any other planes to replace the Viscounts, because Viscounts are also not manufactured? If they are not going to buy Fokkers, what are the planes that they are looking for?

Shri Mohiuddin: This question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Tyagi: Why not Avro?

Increase in Shipping Rates

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*416. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign shipping lines representative met Union Minister of Shipping and pressed for increase of freight rate on export which has been already increased by 10 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the 10% increase already effected by the India/U.K./Continent Conference is in respect of east bound cargoes (i.e. on our imports and not exports).

(b) The Government of India have expressed their grave concern and strong opposition to any increase in freight rates at this juncture.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the name of the foreign shipping company which met the hon. Minister and the reason they have pressed to increase the freight rate?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The representatives of the India-U.K.-Continent Conference met us and the reasons that they advanced for the increase in their freight rates, was, according to them, higher cost of operation.

Shortage of Doctors in the Country

*417. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information available recently from different States reveals that there has been a serious shortage of doctors to run the different dispensaries all over the country; and

(b) if so, the extent of this shortage, and the steps Government propose to adopt to meet the situation?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No such information is available.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

I should like to add that generally, there has been a shortage of doctors for government services except in Bengal. But, as to what is the precise shortage, I should like to have notice.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister says that there is generally shortage so far as doctors are concerned, but he does not know the number, may I know what steps the Government visualise, steps like raising the age limit for retirement or introduction of diploma courses, to improve the situation?

Shri Karmarkar: The obvious step is to increase the number of medical colleges. As against 17 in 1947, there are now 64. The annual admission, I am told, is round about 9,000. So, in a few years' time, there will be a surfeit of doctors.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether any provision is going to be made for having diploma courses, instead of degree courses.

Shri Karmarkar: No, we have no provision; it is not necessary.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit that the Mysore Government have decided to introduce diploma courses again? May I know whether that is in the knowledge of the Government of India or not?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, the Mysore Government have commenced diploma courses. It has come to our knowledge. We have no say in the matter, and we have no opinion in the matter.

Shri Nath Pai: If I understood the hon. Minister aright, I think that he made a remark that before long, there will be a surfeit of doctors. May I know on what calculation it is based, because from the statistics, we know that per thousand population in India, the provision of medical aid, that is, in terms of doctors and nurses, is the lowest in the world? So, how does the hon. Minister calculate this surfeit?

Shri Karmarkar: Firstly, the fact that there is a doctor for less and less population is no sign of progress. We do not want that type of progress in India. I am hoping that with the elimination of communicable diseases, we shall have less and less of doctors. I wish my hon. friends opposite study the problems much more than they do at present. My hon. friends forget that India was once one of the healthiest countries, and with the sun on our side, I am hoping that once these communicable diseases are eliminated, our health chart will be one of the best in the world. That is the first item.

Secondly, when we let upon the people 10,000 doctors a year, already a stage has come when the district places are full of doctors more doctors than are healthy for the particular cities. My hon. friend opposite may not know it, but I have heard complaints about practitioners in Poona to the effect that the Health Ministry should take steps to stop doctors coming from Poona.

With the extension of our primary health centres, much beyond the present scope of the Plan, I am quite sure in my mind that that number of doctors will not be necessary, which is envisaged by my hon. friend Shri Nath Pai. With the addition of 10,000 doctors every year, there will be a lakh of doctors in the next ten years. And I am quite sure in my mind that after ten years, deputations will come to us to curtail the number of medical colleges in England.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit that in England....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister evidently says that hereafter instead of having one doctor for every 30,000 population, he will have one doctor for a lakh of people. Is that the test?

Shri Karmarkar: That was not what I said. Either I made myself absolutely understandable, or with great respect I would say that the Chair did not hear me properly.

The thing is like this, that sometimes an argument is made out in a wrong manner that because Russia has one doctor for every 500 people or America has one doctor for six hundred people, we should also have a thing like that. In fact, I have discussed this matter with the Americans themselves, and they have agreed with me that simply in this competition they may say that they may have one doctor for every 300 population and so on, but it is not wholesome to have a doctor for 300 people on an average. The best idea these days, and that is the accepted notion also, is that we must eradicate all communicable diseases, and have better health education and so on.

Mr. Speaker: If not one doctor for every 300 population, then for how many will there be one doctor?

Shri Karmarkar: Roughly, in our country, we have fixed the number as one doctor for about 3000 population, with a good establishment, and that is sufficient for our country. Already, we have a doctor for every 4000 population. I hope my hon. friends will consider this matter.

Already if anyone goes to a district town and asks oneself whether there are enough doctors or not, one would find, excepting a few districts here and there, that almost all district towns are being served by doctors.

As for the villages, we are establishing primary health centres, which is the first experiment of its kind in any country whatever, apart from Russia. We are now putting up one primary health centre fully equipped for 60,000 population. In course of time, we shall develop that, and I expect that in course of time, we shall have a primary health centre for every 20,000 population. These

things cannot go by numerical calculation alone. Supposing somebody says that there should be a doctor for every 100 persons or every 200 persons, that is no progress at all. The whole medical system has to be spread over. I wish my hon. friends study this matter. And I shall be pleased if you can set aside an hour for a discussion of this matter; that will be a very good thing.

Shri Tyagi: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that there are a large number of dispensaries already opened by Government with funds from the State exchequer, where there are no doctors at all?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Tyagi's question is this. I am not in a position myself to put a question. I understood the question of Shri Tyagi to be this. In my district....

Shri Karmarkar: I have understood the question. I can anticipate what you are going to say.

Mr. Speaker: In my district, there are 13 dispensaries which I got opened. It is difficult to get a doctor for those dispensaries: no doctor stays there even for a minute. It is a very serious matter.....

Shri Karmarkar: It is a very serious matter . . .

Mr. Speaker: The first question that was put was 'What is the shortage of doctors?'. The hon. Minister has not explained that. He has not given any figures in this regard, and he has not calculated it. But, when hon. Members say something, he easily 'No, I am not going to follow the others, I am going to have only one doctor for every 20,000 in the villages'. Today, it may be that the towns are crowded, but so far as the villages are concerned, the hon. Minister says that a health centre will serve 60,000 people. Where is 6,000 and where is 60,000? This is not the way in which

a serious matter is to be handled. If the hon. Minister has not got facts and figures, then he must say that he has not got the figures, and that he would collect facts and figures. It is a very serious matter. What is the meaning of saying 'No, my expectation is that I shall remove all the communicable diseases, and no doctors are necessary'? I am really surprised at this kind of answer.

Shri Karmarkar: May I answer? The present position is like this. There are in the country today about 80,000 allopathic doctors. Apart from the modern medicine doctors, there are estimated to be more or less about 400,000 to 500,000 non-allopathic doctors. The present plan, as I have made clear many a time, is this that at the present time, we are going to have one primary health centre not for 60,000 but for every component area of 60,000. Ultimately, it cannot stop there; one primary health centre can serve about 10,000 people at the most. These centres need to be re-duplicated. I have no doubt in my mind about this.

Shri Tyagi: May I know.....

Shri Karmarkar: I do not know about Dehra Dun.

Shri Tyagi: Will these dispensaries have doctors? That is what I would like to know.

Shri Karmarkar: We have had an account made in this regard, and the complaint is very much exaggerated beyond reality. Out of 3000 primary health centres, there are only about 400 centres in certain States, which are without doctors. All the others are well equipped with doctors, and I wish that my hon. friends will go into the villages which are being served and then tell me what the position is. My experience is, wherever I go to a primary health centre, people are blessing. So, it is not a blind thing; we are trying to make our best to fill

up the shortage. It is no use creating an atmosphere of chaos in the country.

Shri Nath Pai: Arising out of that long lecture to which he subjected us, I would say that I had not bargained for it.....

Mr. Speaker: I am prepared to allow a half-an-hour discussion on this.

Shri Karmarkar: Let it be one-hour discussion, because I also want some time for reply.

Mr. Speaker: And that will take place tomorrow evening.

Next question. Shri Yajnik. The hon. Member is absent.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Let that question be answered, because it is an important one.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

**Baroda-Bombay Air Service by
Kalinga Airlines**

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*418. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communication be pleased to state:

(a) whether a licence has been granted to the Kalinga Airlines to operate air service between Baroda and Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reasons for granting this licence to a private company when the Indian Airlines is already operating between Ahmedabad and Bombay?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). No Sir, Kalinga Airlines have not been granted any licence to operate a regular service between Baroda and Bombay. But they can operate non-scheduled flights between these two points as they hold a non-scheduled permit issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation which authorises them to operate between points which are not connected by a scheduled service.

†The member being absent, the Chair ordered the question to be answered.