

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) In September, 1954, the Planning Commission issued a letter to all State Governments containing certain suggestions regarding future licensing policy in respect of road transport services.

(b) and (c). The Manipur Administration communicated these suggestions to the State Transport Authority who have kept these in view while considering applications for permits.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: In view of the fact that there are a large number of co-operatives in Manipur and also in view of the fact that the M.D.U. Co-operative society has been there in this field for the last 16 years, may I know why no permits have been issued to them and only 15 permits have been issued to Manipur State transport in the Imphal-Dimapur Road for stage carriages to run the passenger transport service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As per instructions of the Planning Commission, it was clearly laid down that special encouragement should be given to the formation of viable units and I have got figures in my possession which show that so far as public carriers are concerned, in the period 1956-57, as many as 25 permits have been given to Manipur State Transport and 251 permits to private persons.

Shri Ranga: What about co-operatives? Is any special effort made to encourage co-operatives there?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Act has been amended and co-operatives have been placed on a special footing so far as that is concerned.

Marine Engineering

*661. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum number of boys who can be taken in the Directorate of Marine Engineering Training every year;

(b) whether this number is being increased; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Fifty boys are at present being taken annually for training in the Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, but there is sufficient capacity to increase this intake to eighty boys per year, if necessary. The question of taking more than fifty boys per year is under active consideration.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if it is possible to increase this number to the maximum capacity?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is possible to do so. That depends upon the requirement in the shipping companies and other concerned departments for these boys.

Family Planning

*662. Shri Naushir Bharucha: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether in view of the practical difficulties arising from conventional methods of family planning, the setting up of sterilisation clinics, where sterilisation can be carried on absolutely voluntary basis, free of cost, has been considered by Government?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmakar): Sterilisation is not a method of family planning because the surgical operation involved is irreversible. The Family Planning Board which considered this question have not recommended it as part of the Family Planning Programme.

Withholding of Telegrams

*663. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telegrams from the Chairman, Praja Socialist Party, Kashmir to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister conveying them the report of an assault on the workers and members of the State Executive of the P.S.P. at Banihal in April last were held-up at Jammu Telegraph Office; and