

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: From the statement I find that under "Amenities" there is provision for subsidized hostels for the children of railway employees. From the budget papers I find that there was only one hostel and that is at Secunderabad. May I know how many more are going to be established?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I said in my budget speech, the idea is to have at least one in every regional language zone.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement I find that one of the demands is that there should not be naked vision tests for those who are actually in service. May I know whether this aspect of the demand will be reconsidered because I find from the statement that they are not going to consider this demand at all.

Mr. Speaker: Without vision test how can they go as station masters?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: They have been working for several years. Now there is a vision test and if they are not successful they are sent away.

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow the hon. Minister to commit anything.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have nothing to add in that respect as to what has been stated in the statement itself.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: On a point of order I had put this question. But I am not given a chance to put a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: You can put your question.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: From the statement I find that on the eye test some station masters and assistant station masters are removed from service. May I know whether they are given a chance for any service other than as station masters and assistant station masters?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think that is the standing arrangement in the railways. If certain persons, from whom a certain standard of vision is expect-

ed, are not found fit according to that standard, alternative jobs are found for them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that the vision test that is conducted on the Indian railways is much more than the international standard approved by the ILO?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The vision test that is required from the Indian railways staff is necessary for Indian conditions.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether the demands of the telecommunication employees will also be considered by the pay commission?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If the hon. Member refers to the terms of reference of the pay commission, which was announced by the Finance Minister, she will find that the case of all Central Government employees is covered.

Floods in Imphal River.

S.N.Q. No. 11. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) Whether it is a fact that the embankments of the Imphal river gave way in three places during the last week of July, 1957, and have flooded several villages in the Thoubal Tehsil of Manipur;

(b) what is the extent of damage to houses, property and standing crops as a result of the recent flood in Manipur,

(c) whether Government took proper and sufficient steps to prevent the bunds giving way and securing the safety of the bunds with the co-operation of the local people, and

(d) what steps have been taken for relief of the affected people?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (d). Three minor breaches on the Imphal

river bank occurred in the last week of July, 1957, due to heavy rains for a few days. Only one house was damaged, to standing crops being negligible. The breaches were closed quickly by the Public Works Department with the co-operation of the local villagers and the National Cadet Corps. Such minor breaches are unavoidable during heavy rains and the Public Works Department have arrangements to deal with them if and when they occur. No distress was caused and, as such, no relief measures were necessary.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: In view of the fact that every year floods occur due to breaches in the river embankments, may I know whether Government are considering the question of finding out a permanent and effective means of controlling the floods there?

Shri S. K. Patil: The floods in the Manipur Valley are not of a type where we should really be afraid of these breaches. According to the information that we have received, the annual discharge is not so great as to necessitate the taking of big-size measures in hand immediately, but even then, the matter is under consideration as to how this problem could be tackled.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Railway Board

***792 Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of Members of the Railway Board recently increased to deal with development work during Second Five Year Plan,

(b) the additional annual expenditure consequent on the new increase in strength of the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new Members are not admitted to the meetings of the regular Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) to (d). The number of Members of the Railway Board has not been increased recently. 5 posts of Additional Members have been sanctioned. The total annual expenditure on this account is Rs 3 lakhs, including expenditure on staff attached to the Additional Members. Since they are not full Members of the Railway Board, they do not attend regular meetings of the Board except where their presence is required.

Calcutta Seamen

***795. Shri Biren Roy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) the strength of different Seamen's Unions in Calcutta in terms of membership as has been assessed through the registration of Seamen at the Calcutta Seamen Employment Office, and

(b) whether a copy of the recommendations made by the Seamen's Welfare Board and the decision of Government in regard thereto will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No such statistics are available from the registration documents as the Seamen do not always indicate their affiliation to specific unions while registering themselves at the Seamen's Employment Office.

(b) The National Welfare Board for Seafarers has not yet submitted its recommendations to Government.

Ferry Crafts on Brahmaputra

***797. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 738 on the 31st May, 1957 and state

(a) whether Government have scrutinised the tenders for the purchase of