

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. N. Das: One supplementary, Sir. With regard to rationalisation, retrenchment and re-training of retrenched workers, a circular was issued by the Central Government.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called the next question. What is the hon. Member asking?

Shri S. N. Das: One question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. Next question.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF SHIP-OWNERS

*496. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what are the important recommendations so far made by the Consultative Committee of Ship-owners?

(b) Which of these recommendations have been accepted by Government and given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Consultative Committee of Shipowners which consists of representatives of the Indian shipping industry, is a purely advisory body and has been set up to enable the industry to have discussions with representatives of Government on current problems facing the industry and to offer suggestions. The Committee has so far held two meetings. The important subjects discussed at these meetings included the question of the grant of certain income-tax concessions to the Indian shipping industry, the collection of shipping statistics, the setting up of a salvage organisation in India and the improvement of existing facilities in certain ports. The suggestions made at the meeting are under Government's consideration.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee is likely to be terminated or it will continue?

Shri Alagesan: It will continue and it will have its next meeting in April.

DIGHA GHAT

*497. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no conveyance except automobiles are allowed to carry passengers from and to Digha Ghat (N.E. Railway)?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are the Government aware that many times the station staff have refused to allow any transport except automobiles?

Shri Alagesan: There is a slope and perhaps they themselves do not go to the jetty. The Railway staff do not prevent them from coming near the jetties.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: I myself have gone and was not allowed to bring my rickshaw there.

Shri Alagesan: That would be looked into.

PATNA MEDICAL COLLEGE

*498. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted to the Patna Medical College for upgrading of the Physiology Department;

(b) whether the whole amount has been spent; and

(c) whether the upgrading has been effected?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shri-mati Chandrasekhar): (a) The amounts allotted by the Central and Bihar Governments for meeting recurring and non-recurring expenditure are:—

(i) by the Central Government:

Non-recurring Rs. 55,000/-

Recurring Rs. 17,000/- per annum

(ii) by the Government of Bihar:

Non-recurring Rs. 72,000/-

Recurring Rs. 35,000/- per annum.

The Central Government have paid the non-recurring grant of Rs. 55,000/-.

(b) No.

(c) The regular session of the upgraded department is likely to start in July, 1953.

CALCUTTA PORT

*499. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how far the congestion at the Calcutta Port has been relieved during the current year and also the progress made in the implementation of the plan for improvement of Calcutta Port?