

the information available is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 28.]

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, by what time Government propose to have the adequate number of nurses as estimated by them now?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I do not think it is possible to give the time limit.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the present ratio of qualified nurses to the population and to qualified doctors?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I require notice.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: May I reply? There is one nurse to about 30,000 of the population. That is the latest. Previously there was one nurse to 43,000 of the population.

Shri V. P. Nayar: To doctors?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We have about one doctor to between six and seven thousand of the population.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether any nurses are being trained in any institution under the Central Government's control? If so, how many per year?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Under the Central Government there is only the College of Nursing. Otherwise, all the nurses are trained in the States in various hospitals.

Shri A. M. Thomas: How many are being trained in this College of Nursing every year?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think we are able to take in the neighbourhood of a hundred.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, if some of the States have taken women criminals as nurses, and if so, is it creating some adverse effect on the morale of the nurses?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A news item appeared in the press to that effect, and I contacted the Chief Minister of the State concerned. He has assured me that nobody who has been convicted of a non-bailable offence will be trained, but in the case of those who have come into prison under adverse circumstances or as victims of circumstances, it may be part of a measure for rehabilitation for that type.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know the lowest pay-scale that is given to the whole-time nurses, and is it conceded that it is necessary to increase the pay-scale for the existence of the nurses?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: If the hon. Member means that the pay-scale of the nurses is too low, I am in entire agreement with her, and I am fighting for them with the State Governments all the time.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What is the minimum qualification prescribed for the entrants to the Delhi College of Nursing?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: We take them in at the Matriculation stage, but we prefer to have Intermediate (Science).

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether there are any definite proposals to increase the present salary of the nurses?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The States are autonomous in the matter of salaries of nurses. I can only ask them and advise them, and I am glad to say that many of them have increased the salaries.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What proportion of the total number of nurses is filled by male nurses?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not give the actual proportion of male nurses to female nurses.

CULTIVATION OF COFFEE AND RUBBER TREES IN ANDAMANS

*1654. **Shri S. C/ Samants:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coffee and rubber trees grow in some of the Andaman forests;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to plant those trees there; and

(c) the amount of coffee and rubber collected from those forests during the years 1950-51 and 1952-53?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes; to a limited extent in artificially raised plantations.

(b) Government have already small scale plantations of rubber and coffee in Andamans and the question of large scale cultivation is under consideration.

(c) The quantity of coffee and rubber collected during the years 1950-51 to 1952-53 is as under:—

Year	Coffee	Rubber
	Lbs.	Lbs.
1950-51	Nil	17,389
1951-52	2,583	30,892
1952-53	574	70,700

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the soil in the places which are being now cleared of jungle in Long Island, is suited for cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is under trial. We have to experiment with regard to that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large amount of land at the present time is lying idle with wildly grown coffee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Since my hon. friend has just been to the Andamans, possibly what he has stated is true.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the variety of coffee produced there, whether it is Robusta or Arabica?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the coffee produced in the Andamans was ultimately sold in the market and fetched some money?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the rubber produced in the Andamans is of a higher quality than what we have in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Let us hope so.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Mr. Chairman: Next Question. Shri Nambiar.

Shri Nambiar: No. 1655. It is not "Sindi" but it is "Hindi".

TRANSFER OF DISPLACED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FROM SOUTHERN RAILWAY

*1655. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many displaced Railway employees have been posted at far off Railway Stations; and

(b) whether Government have received representations from Hindi and Bengali-speaking Railway employees posted on the Southern Railway for being transferred to their respective linguistic areas and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Some displaced persons, not displaced Railway employees—mostly from East Bengal, living in refugee camps in West Bengal, were posted to the Southern Railway on a request from the Rehabilitation authorities early in

1951 in vacancies arising out of the implementation of the Adjudicator's Award.

(b) Yes; arrangements have been made to transfer them to their respective linguistic areas as and when vacancies occur.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether they will be transferred within a short time, because 'as and when vacancies occur' is a very vague term?

Shri Alagesan: When these refugees were appointed on the Southern Railway, the Railway Authorities told them that they were going to a place where language etc. differ. So, with the full knowledge of these conditions, they went there. Already many of them have been transferred to the Eastern and Northern Railways. The rest can be transferred only as and when vacancies occur. It was not as if they went there without knowing what the conditions were.

Shri Gidwai: Will the Government consider the desirability of transferring displaced Railway employees from Sind to work on the Kandla-Deesa Railway, as it will help in the development of Gandhidam?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give an answer of hand. It can be considered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the approximate number of Hindi and Bengali speaking employees working in this railway?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have their number here.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether free passes and other facilities are given to such employees as are transferred to other places?

Shri Alagesan: The usual conditions will be observed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether due to regrouping of the railways, such persons have been sent to distant stations, and if so, what arrangements are being made to return them to their places?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. It was a question of finding employment for the refugees who came from East Bengal and were crowding in West Bengal. Because there were vacancies in the Southern Railway, they were employed there.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I take it that due to regrouping there was no such transfer?

Shri Alagesan: The regrouping has nothing to do with that.