

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Essentially, Sir, this matter rests with the Uttar Pradesh Government. We are, however, trying to see what we can do. There is likelihood that if loans are advanced from the co-operative bank they may probably be able to pay.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Is there any time-limit for payment?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid, Sir, the whole thing is a very complicated affair. There are domestic feuds and all sorts of things.

VENDING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS

*687. **Shri Ramachandra Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints or representations about the undesirable effects of the practice of subletting vending contracts at railway stations; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, occasionally.

(b) Instructions exist to terminate contracts where complaints of subletting prove to be correct.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is it the general policy of Government to allow subletting of vending contracts?

Shri Alagesan: It is not the policy. We have issued instructions to terminate contracts wherever subletting is proved.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know the procedure adopted by Government for the licensing of these vendors—is it by auction or otherwise?

Shri Alagesan: It is a system of licensing. There is no procedure of calling for tenders and giving the contract to the people.

Shri Gidwani: Do Government still contemplate giving contracts to a few persons, or do they contemplate to

give them to a large number of people on different railways?

Shri Alagesan: I do not quite catch the question. It is a system of licensing. Wherever subletting has been proved.....

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the general policy is to give the contract to a large number of people, or a smaller number of people.

Shri Alagesan: It is not a question of a large number or small number. Already licences exist; there is no question of multiplying them.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether Government is contemplating to replace these contracts by co-operative organisations and governmental institutions?

Shri Alagesan: No such thing is in our contemplation.

AMENITIES TO CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*688. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what arrangements are provided on the premises for education and medical aid for the families of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department in view of the fact that most of the aerodromes and aeronautical stations are situated far away from towns and cities?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Government have not provided any special facilities at the premises of aerodromes and aeronautical communication stations for the education of children. They have, however, permitted the use of Government transport at concessional rates by the children to go to the schools in the adjoining towns and back.

There is a small hospital attached to the Training Centre at Bamrauli (Allahabad) aerodrome. At Dum Dum, the Airport Health Officer is available for rendering medical aid to the Government servants and their families stationed there.

Government dispensaries are being opened at the Santa Cruz and Dum Dum airports.

Shrimati Jayashri: Is it a fact that many deaths have occurred on account of non-availability of transport?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No such case has come to our notice.

BONUM BRIDGE

***689. Dr. Natabar Pandey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount that has been sanctioned for the construction of Bonum bridge near Jharsuguda on the Eastern Railway?

(b) How much of the sanctioned amount has so far been spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 4.30 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 3.75 lakhs.

Dr. Natabar Pandey: May I know whether the work will be completed, before the monsoon commences this year?

Shri Alagesan: Work is likely to be completed within two months' time.

KONKAN COASTAL TRAFFIC

***690. Shri M. D. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the present total tonnage of the passenger ships of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company?

(b) What is the total number of ships?

(c) Is it a fact that the present number of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company's passenger steamers is inadequate to cope with the passenger traffic on the Konkan Coast?

(d) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what measures do Government propose to take to increase the number of passenger ships on the Konkan line?

(e) Have Government given any financial aid to the Bombay Steam

Navigation Company to enhance its tonnage and if so, how much?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Bombay Steam Navigation Co. (1953) Ltd. possess seven passenger ships of a total tonnage of 5,047 GRT.

(c) Not to Government's knowledge

(d) Does not arise.

(e) None, so far.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Have they ever made any application to Government for aid?

Shri Alagesan: We have not received any.

ORANGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, COORG

***691. Shri N. Somana:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken on the location of an Orange Research station in Coorg?

(b) If so, when will the station start functioning?

(c) Who will be incharge of the station?

(d) Who will meet the (i) capital and (ii) recurring expenditure of this station?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) After the Officer-in-Charge is appointed through the Union Public Service Commission.

(c) A Horticulturist in the Central Services Class I (Senior).

(d) The entire non-recurring and recurring expenditure except land and buildings will be borne by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Shri N. Somana: What will be the total cost of this Institute.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total cost during the operation of the scheme, which will be for a period of five years, would be Rs. 1,69,300.