

Shri Radha Raman: What is the climate which is suitable for its growth?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is...

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir...

Shri Syed Ahmed: Who eats this fish?

Mr. Speaker: Order. order. Mr. Nayar.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether the studies in respect of this fish are confined only to finding out the prolific multiplication of this species or whether any attempt is also being made to find out whether this fish, Tilapia Mosambiqua, is a predatory fish?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Attempts are being made to study all aspects of the question of multiplication of this breed; whether by the introduction of this fish in this country it is going to be a pest and eat away all other fish here; the food value of this fish; the possibilities of consumption of this fish in this country—all these are being investigated.

Shri Syed Ahmed: May I know in what part of the country this fish is likely to be eaten?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is an African fish brought up in Thailand during the wartime. It is a new species. Its food values are being investigated.

WHEAT IMPORTS

*1555. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendation of the Estimates Committee in regard to import of wheat on barter terms; and

(b) if so, what arrangements have been made for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India enter into barter agreements with foreign countries where those countries desire such an agreement and it is also in the interest of the Government of India to do so.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Have we succeeded everywhere?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: For a number of years. Last year and the year before, we had barter agreements with China, Russia and Argentina. For wheat imported from China and Argentina, we gave them tobacco, tea, shellac and other things.

RAILWAY HOSPITALS

*1556. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the administration has permitted outsiders to be admitted in Railway Hospitals;

(b) whether the fees paid by the outsiders is shared proportionately by the Assistant Surgeons, District Medical Officers, the Chief Medical Officer and the administration;

(c) how many outsiders were admitted in Railway Hospitals in 1952 and 1953; and

(d) how much amount has been realised by the Railways, after paying the share to the doctors?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. Spare accommodation available in Railway Hospitals subject to a maximum of 10 per cent. of the total beds in the hospital can be utilised for non-railway patients.

(b) No. Two-fifth of the fees for major and minor operations recovered from non-railway patients are paid to the Medical Officers rendering the service. All other charges for professional services, pathological, bacteriological tests, etc., and three-fifths of the fees for operations are credited to Railway Revenues.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what measures have been taken for the treatment of T. B. of railwaymen and their families?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is quite another question. This question related to admission of civilians in railway hospitals. But, if the hon. Member likes to know about that aspect, I will tell him.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any proposals have been received by the Government from the Southern Railway for the expansion of hospitals, particularly railway hospitals at Villupuram junction?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The Chief Medical Officer of the Southern Railway has been specially entrusted with that work for all the railways and he is going round. He is expected to submit his report regarding the expansion of the hospitals as also for providing better equipment of the existing hospitals.

Shri Barrow: May I know what measures are taken to prevent the Railway Medical Officers from abusing this quota that is allowed to outsiders that is putting in patients who are going to pay them and keeping out railway patients?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Wherever accommodation is available, then and then only we allow outsiders to be admitted to the railway hospitals and in that case too, it is limited to only 10 per cent.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what are the reasons for the decrease in the amount of realisation in 1953 as compared to 1952, whereas the number of outsiders admitted in 1953 was 150 per cent. more than those admitted in 1952?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The amount realised from outsiders depends upon

the nature of operation that is performed. If it is a major operation, the patient has to pay Rs. 150; if it is a minor one, he has to pay Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. So, it varies.

NEW RAILWAY STATIONS

***1557. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any criteria for the opening of a new railway station; and

(b) if so, what they are?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) A station is opened whenever the volume of traffic warrants it, but a new station is not normally provided when there is already a station within 3 miles, except in areas served by suburban train services.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How many new stations are to be opened on the N. E. Railway under the Five Year Plan?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I shall require notice for that; it is a big question.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Have Government any principle regarding the naming of railway stations? May I know the principle on which the new railway stations between Dighwara and Baragopalpore have been named near Chapra?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Government has very sound principles for opening railway stations. The main principle is the traffic justification and economic justification. About the two specific stations I shall require notice.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I wanted to know the principle in naming the new stations.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Naming of stations is generally decided in consultation with the State Government. Whenever a new name is suggested,