

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know whether any State has sent candidates to the International Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Calcutta, and if so, how many candidates have been sent?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The question of candidates to go abroad has not come in this.

Mr. Speaker: She means the International Centre at Calcutta.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: To the training centre at Calcutta? I could not give the number.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons for which States like Mysore have expressed their inability to participate in the scheme?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Mysore Government said that they had already got their own schemes, and therefore, they did not want to participate in the Central Government's scheme.

AGREEMENT WITH TELCO

*1349. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the question of terminating the agreement with the Telco and running it as a State-owned industry;

(b) if so, what is the nature of decision taken; and

(c) whether the negotiations as to the basis of distribution of the various overheads have been completed and matters in this connection finally settled?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Hon. Member has, perhaps, in mind the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee that the manufacture of boilers and locomotives be taken over from Telco and run as a State-owned industry. Government will communicate their decision on this recommendation to the Committee shortly.

(c) Yes.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether all the outstanding questions that were under dispute have been settled, or whether there is any occasion to submit any such question to arbitration, as provided for under the agreement?

Shri Alagesan: All the questions have been settled. As I stated in answer to part (c) of the question, the main question was the distribution of overheads. For that, a formula has been arrived at, and it has been accepted.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether in view of the fact that important changes have been made in the agreement that was entered into some years back, Government will lay on the Table of the House a copy of the revised agreement, if any?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The hon. Member is a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Is he no longer a member of that Committee?

Shri S. N. Das: I am a member.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am sorry. All these details will go before the Public Accounts Committee, as has just now been stated by the hon. Deputy Minister, and the hon. Member will get sufficient opportunity to go through them.

Shri Amjad Ali: What about the House?

Shrimati Maydeo: May I know whether as a result of the termination of the agreement, Government have suffered any loss?

Shri Alagesan: The agreement has not been terminated. In fact, there is no provision in the agreement for its termination.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know the present percentage of overheads?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say that now. The formula has been devised, and as per that formula, the overheads will be fixed.

RAJASTHAN DESERT

*1350. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken so far to implement the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee appointed for the immobilisation of the Rajputana Desert?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A Desert Afforestation Research Station has been established at Jodhpur to implement the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee. In addition to research work, the functions of the Station includes demonstration of desert control methods.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations have borne any fruit so far, so far as the immobilisation of the desert is concerned?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have just made a beginning, and I am sure our efforts will bear fruit in due course.

CENTRAL MEDIO LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*1351. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether a Central Medio Legal Advisory Committee consisting of chemical examiners and professors of forensic medicine has been set up?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The question of setting up this Committee is under consideration.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether this Committee will advise the State Governments also?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The functions of this Committee will be to advise both the Central and the State Governments.

WOOD PRESERVATION UNIT IN DELHI

*1352. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a commercial wood seasoning and wood preservation unit at Delhi;

(b) if so, whether plans and estimates for the same have been prepared; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to control heavy losses of timber due to fungus and insects during transit and storage?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). No.

(c) A suitable code of practice for prophylactic treatment of timber and bamboos and maintenance of timber depots under hygienic conditions is being prepared by the Executive Committee of the Timber Dryers' and Preserver's Association; and the Forest Research Institute has circulated a note on the chemical protection of timbers by way of prophylactic treatments, to the various timber industries.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether there is any place where timber is treated?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. There are two pressure treatment plants operated by the railways at Naharkatya (Assam) and Dhillwan (Punjab). The port of Cochin and Messrs. Assam Railways and Trading Company, Margherita, also possess one creosote pressure plant each. In addition, there are about eight more open tanks or Ascu treatment plants situated mostly in South India.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Have Government any idea as to the quantity of timber treated in these places?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would ask for notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What will be the approximate cost of chemically treating wood as is suggested by the Forest