

(b) The number of persons placed in employment by these Exchanges were :

Ernakulam.—991, during the period May, 1950—March, 1952.

Trivandrum.—626, during the period May, 1950—March, 1952.

Kozhikode.—20,504, during the period December, 1945—March, 1952.

(c) Yes. Two complaints regarding the Exchange at Trivandrum and two regarding the Exchange at Kozhikode were received during the period January, 1951 to March, 1952. No complaint was received regarding the Exchange at Ernakulam during the same period.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what action the Government have taken on the complaints received from the Trivandrum and Kozhikode Exchanges?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The complaint received from Trivandrum was found to be justified and the staff have been suitably dealt with. As regards Kozhikode the matter is still being investigated by the Regional Director.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government is in a position to give the nature of the complaints?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes.—The complaint in Trivandrum was that replies to communications were much delayed. The complaint in Kozhikode was that the individual concerned was not considered for a reserved vacancy.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any complaint regarding the corruption in these labour exchanges by the officers?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There was one complaint that persons who came with chits or recommendations were given preferences. This was investigated, but not much truth was found in it. The complaint was on account of the fact that the complainant was not getting assistance. Since then he has found employment.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Employment Officer at Ernakulam is refusing to register names in that particular exchange?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That complaint has not come to our notice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Would the hon. Minister give the figures registered with employment exchanges throughout India for the last four years?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That can be supplied.

Mr. Speaker: Instead of putting that as supplementary question, she might put a separate question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are there any exchanges for agricultural labourers in rural areas?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: These exchanges are intended for skilled workers and agricultural workers are covered by them.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether after repeated applications for renewal, the age bar of 25 years is brought in to deny employment to the applicants?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, Sir. Only those who do not send their renewal applications are not kept on the live register. As regards other things, it is not the concern of the Employment Exchange, but of the employing authorities.

Mr. Speaker: Now, we will proceed to the next question.

HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

*100. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the Health Insurance Scheme launched recently;

(b) what facilities were arranged for the medical examination of employees and whether any fee was levied from employees for this; and

(c) whether the allopathic system of medicine alone is recognised for the purpose of medical examination and granting of Certificates?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The Employees' State Insurance Scheme was introduced in the State of Delhi and in the Kanpur area of Uttar Pradesh with effect from the 24th February, 1952. A statement showing the progress made has been laid on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No. 26.]

(b) All employees working in factories to whom the Scheme applies are accepted as insured persons without medical inspection or examination and, therefore, the question of levying fees does not arise. For Medical treatment and attendance of such insured persons, the following arrangements have been made:

Delhi.—Eight State Insurance Dispensaries and one Mobile State Insurance Dispensary for outlying places have been set up. In addition,

arrangements have also been made at three existing Government Dispensaries for treatment of employees during specified hours each day.

One Panel Medical Practitioner has been appointed for Delhi Cantt.

Kanpur.—Thirteen State Insurance Dispensaries have been established. Two Mobile State Insurance Dispensaries for outlying areas are also being provided.

At these Dispensaries insured persons receive out-patient treatment and medicines, injections and dressings. Doctors also visit insured persons at their houses when necessary. Indoor hospital treatment is provided in serious and emergent cases. No fees whatsoever are charged for Medical treatment admissible under the Scheme to the insured persons.

(c) Only Insurance Medical Officers appointed under the Scheme are entitled to grant medical certificates, and since they are allopaths under the present arrangements, only the certificates issued by them are recognised.

If a substantial number of workers demand treatment by the Indian systems of medicine and the State Governments have recognized the qualifications in such systems, treatment facilities will be provided under those systems as well. The certificates issued by duly appointed medical practitioners under those systems, in respect of persons treated by them, will also then be recognised.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any persistent demand to recognise certificates from Ayurvedic doctors regarding treatment?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have answered that question in the last portion of the answer. But, we have not yet received any persistent demand.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any demand at all from the employees, though not persistent?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far as our information goes, we are informed by the Delhi State Government and the U.P. State Government that a majority of workers wanted to be treated by the allopathic system and I have further replied that if at any stage it was found that a substantial number of workers demand treatment by the Indian systems, facilities will be provided for that.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Are Government aware that for all diseases requiring

patent medicines and injections, the employees are required to spend their money?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It might be the case in the case of very costly medicines. The arrangement at present is that the employers will have to bear that cost.

Shri Dhulekar: May I know whether the Government has issued any circular that Ayurvedic practitioners who are registered under the law might also be permitted to be consulted by these people?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said, if a substantial number of workers desire to be treated by the Ayurvedic system, that facility will be provided.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Are Government aware that since the inauguration of the scheme, workers have been experiencing increasing difficulties in getting leave?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That fact has come to our notice and I understand the Labour Ministry is considering the question of suitable amendments to the Act.

Shri Velayudhan: To how many employees were cash benefits given and what is the amount given till now?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think it is too early to give any figure. We have not yet got the figures.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

Shri Velayudhan: One question, Sir; it is very important.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Aid to Nepal

*101. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Government has sought India's aid for Nepal's development;

(b) if so, in what form and on what basis;

(c) the extent of the aid; and

(d) whether the Government of India has agreed to grant a loan to Nepal?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (d). Yes. The information asked for was given in a Press Note issued by the Government of India at the end of last month. A