

Shri R. G. Dubey: Is it not a fact that this region, known as Bombay-Karnatak, is backward in development, socially and economically, and in view of the declared policy of the Planning Commission to develop backward regions, will Government consider this proposal?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a matter to be decided by the Planning Commission. It is no use arguing that point. Next question.

LOCAL FINANCE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*194. **Shri Jajware:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the time taken and expenditure incurred for the working of the Local Finance Enquiry Committee?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred on the publication of its reports?

(c) What steps have Government taken for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee and if not, why not?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The Committee functioned from 14.4.1949 to 31.12.1950 and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,42,345.

(b) The expenditure was Rs. 7459/11/-.

(c) The Local Finance Enquiry Committee made as many as 149 recommendations and on practically all these recommendations action has to be taken by the State Government as Local-Self Government is a subject in the State list of the Constitution. The Report of the Committee was, therefore, circulated to the State Governments for consideration and necessary action. Most of the Governments have replied to the effect that the matter is under consideration while some of the Governments have accepted some recommendations and rejected the others. Action is likely to vary from State to State as local circumstances are different.

As far as the Central Government are concerned, the main recommendations are that the terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by railways, sea or air which are now in the Central list of the Constitution should be transferred to the State list and also that while Central Government property may continue to be immune from Local taxation, Government should make a contribution to Local Bodies in lieu of such taxes. As far as these terminal taxes are concerned under Article 269 of the Constitution the taxes

will be levied and collected by the Central Government but assigned to the States. It is not considered necessary to alter this position. The question of Central legislation to take power for the levy of such taxes is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

Regarding the payment of contribution by the Central Government to Local Bodies in lieu of taxes certain particulars are being collected and it will take some time before a decision is reached.

Shri Jajware: May I know whether the responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee in regard to terminal taxes, is wholly on the Central Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have given the answer to this very clearly in my reply.

Shri Jajware: May I know whether the recommendation from the State of Bihar for the imposition of such tax in regard to the famous pilgrimage centre of Baidyanath Dhan is pending before the Central Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not any knowledge of that.

Shri Jajware: May I know whether a representation has been made by the M. Ps. of Bihar State to the Minister, and whether any action has been taken on that?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said that it is the local bodies that have made representations. In certain matters relating to the Central Government, the Ministry of Finance is considering the position.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what percentage of land taxes has been recommended to be given to the local bodies?

Mr. Speaker: Is the report not published yet?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The report has been published and laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may better refer to the Report rather than ask questions here.

Shri S. C. Samantia: The hon. Minister has stated that some of the States have accepted some of the recommendations of the Committee, and they are implementing them. May I know whether they are implementing those recommendations by Government's order, or

by amending the Local Self-Government Acts ?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That would naturally have to be referred to State Governments. I am not responsible as to how State Governments function.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether as a result of this Enquiry Committee, Government have evolved any central plan for local self-governing institutions?

Mr. Speaker: The Committee was for considering financial aspects only, not the general aspects.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether Government have fixed any time-limit as to the State Governments making up their minds as to the recommendations of this Committee.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is very difficult for Government to fix any time-limit, but we remind the State Governments and ask them to let us know what they are doing from time to time.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

*195. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 34th Session of the International Labour Organisations Conference held in Geneva in June 1951, the subject of "Equal Pay for Equal work to be performed by men and women workers" was discussed; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the India Government voted against the introduction of a convention on this subject?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes, the 34th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June 1951 discussed this subject and adopted a Convention and a Recommendation on Equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.

(b) The principle of equal-remuneration has been incorporated in the directive principle contained in Article 39(d) of the Indian Constitution and accepted by the Central Pay Commission, the Fair Wage Committee and a number of Industrial Tribunals also. But the actual application of the principle would have to be gradual in view of the practical difficulties involved. A machinery must be set up for objective appraisal of job contents without which the principle could not be applied. The 34th Session adopted a Convention as well as a Recommendation on the sub-

ject. The Government of India's delegate abstained from voting on the Convention, but voted in favour of the Recommendation. A statement on the action to be taken on this Convention and Recommendation by the Government of India and its delegation's Report explaining the position, will be placed before the Parliament soon in accordance with Article 19 of the L.L.O. Convention.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know whether Government has any intention of instituting machinery for fixing the job rates?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the Government delegate actually adopted the position that women in India should get lesser wages than men?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not think so.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons that prompted the Indian delegate to vote for the Convention and abstain from the recommendation?

Shri V. V. Giri: A statement will soon be placed on the Table of the House explaining the reason.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether Government is aware that in fixing the minimum wages in the tea planting industry, a difference has been maintained based on the assumed intention of the Government of India to fix different scales of wages for men and women?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am sure that is not the intention of the Government of India. At any rate, the Government of India's decision is to gradually adopt the Convention to see that there shall be no difference.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the average woman plucker in a tea garden is better than the average man, and in spite of that fact, the men get higher wages for plucking than the women?

Shri V. V. Giri: I will take the information from the hon. Member.

TRAIN RUNNING BETWEEN KAVALI AND MADRAS

*196. **Shri K. S. Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representations from public bodies or individuals, requesting for re-starting of the train running between Kaval and Madras on the Southern Railway?

(b) Do Government intend to re-start the train?