

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I would not be able to state the number of persons. The States that have asked for funds, Cutch, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, have been sanctioned funds. A few more States have come in. Thirty-four such centres are to be established and that is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: What efforts have so far been made to combat the shyness of the rural folk so far as propagation of family planning is concerned?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Health education is being carried on as far as we can. The centres that are being opened are catering to the rural population also.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any State-wise grants for training centres have been made? If so, how much out of the sum of Rs. 30 lakhs allotted by the Planning Commission has been given?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It all depends upon how much the States ask for. As my colleague said just now, five States had asked for moneys and Rs. 1,50,000 have been sanctioned. Other proposals for a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 have come and sanction is going to be issued shortly.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*314. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway employees whose services are terminated on account of their suffering from tuberculosis, are eligible for re-appointment, if and when they recover; and

(b) if so, whether such employees on such re-appointment are given the benefit of their past services?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, on their being certified by T.B. Specialists after treatment as non-infective and fit for work.

(b) When such persons are re-employed in permanent posts they are confirmed out of turn provided they were permanent before. If they were only temporary before, they are confirmed in their turn counting their previous service also for this purpose only. Pay on re-appointment is so fixed that as far as possible there is no sharp diminution in emoluments from what they were drawing at the time of their discharge from Government service.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know what is the reason for not giving them all the benefits of their past service, since they did not quit service on account of any fault of theirs?

Shri Alagesan: It cannot be any fault of theirs. They were definitely unfit because they were suffering from T.B. This refers to cases where the maximum leave has been availed of. That would be five years in the case of permanent employees. After return, if they are certified to be fit, this concession is shown to them and if they are taken back their past services are counted. They are promoted out of turn.

Shri Nambiar: May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: The Question-Hour is over.

Shri Nambiar: There is half a minute more.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have said that it is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

STRIKE BY D.T.S. WORKERS

S.N.Q. No. 2. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public transport in Delhi was paralysed on Sunday, the 21st November, 1954, and that most of the Delhi Transport Service buses did not ply in the city;

(b) whether the above state of affairs still continues;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Sir, with your permission, I shall make a small statement.

From the 21st to the 23rd November, 1954, there was a partial cessation of operation of the Delhi Transport Service as the majority of drivers, who reported for duty, refused to take the vehicles on the road on the ostensible ground that they were defective and did not conform to the requirements under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. About 130 vehicles out of a total of 226 vehicles scheduled to be operated were affected by this refusal.

2. The management arranged for an *ad-hoc* inspection of all the vehicles involved in the dispute by the Motor Vehicles Inspectorate of Delhi State. Upto the 23rd November 172 vehicles in all have been certified to be fit and road-worthy.

3. The Delhi Transport Service Workers Union recently made a number of demands on the management covering various matters. These demands have been under negotiation between the management and Union and even before the management could consider them finally the Union apparently considered it desirable to force the pace by suddenly stopping from work.

4. The main handicap, which prevented more efficient operation of the Service in Delhi, was the absence of proper depots and a good workshop. Two big depots have since been constructed and one of them is already in use. Operation will start from the second new depot as soon as the workers resume duty. A big workshop building has practically been completed and the equipment will be transferred to this building during the next few days. The workshop will begin operation in the new premises by the end of December, 1954. 140 new buses have been ordered for

already and the Service will have a total fleet of 400 buses by the middle of 1955.

5. The question of resumption of work by the drivers has been under discussion between the management and the representatives of the Union in the presence of a Conciliation Officer on the 22nd and 23rd November and normal operation has been restored today.

6. It is unfortunate that this sudden stoppage of work should have occurred causing great inconvenience to the public. I am glad that wiser counsels have prevailed and the workers have resumed duty.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that several of the D.T.S. buses including some of the new ones are defective without such parts as speedometers, front and rear lights etc., that their window panes and windscreens constantly break down, and that they do not run efficiently in a regular and punctual way?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need go into those details. Now the strike is over.

Shri Dabhi: May I ask one question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether, in view of the fact that several complaints have been made against the D.T.S. service as well as regarding the efficiency and non-co-operation of the workers, Government intend to make any enquiry into the matter.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I think the hon. Member should advise the employees and drivers to take into account the general interest of the people of this city and avoid entering into such lightning strikes.

Shri Nambiar rose—

Shri Dabhi: I wanted to know....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. **Mr. Nambiar.**

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the implementation of certain collective agreements previously entered into by the management with the workers' union has been held up due to delays in the Transport and Finance Ministries?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Most of the demands have been met and a few were referred to the Finance Ministry and they are still under consideration.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government have exempted the D.T.S. management from the operation of the Industrial Employment Standing Orders Act thereby making it compulsory on the part of the management to consult the labour union when standing orders are issued?

Shri Alagesan: The management has been in consultation with the labour union. Even the latest demands have been under discussion between the management and the union.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will proceed now with the other business.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHECKING OF RADIO LICENSES

*207. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the radio-licence screening was done last;

(b) the number of cases detected so far during 1954 where the radio sets have been used without licence; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against persons possessing unauthorised radio sets?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Screening is done throughout the year by the special anti-piracy staff employed to check the unauthorised

possession of Wireless Telegraphy apparatus and the use of Receivers for broadcast reception.

(b) During the six months (January to June 1954) 9,532 persons were found using their sets without licenses.

(c) Yes.

CENTRAL AID TO STATE MEDICAL INSTITUTES

*217. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have requested the Government of India for financial aid to specified hospitals and medical institutions during the current year;

(b) how many of them are being aided and to what extent; and

(c) whether the Government of India have received any special requests from the Punjab Government for the above purpose and how far they have been met?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Five.

(b) It has been decided so far, to sanction a non-recurring grant of Rs. 60,500, during the current year, to one of these institutions. No financial aid was given to any of them previously.

(c) No.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

*307. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Subcommittee of the International Telephone Consultative Committee met at Lahore in December 1953 and considered the "formulation of an inter-connection of the telegraph and telephone networks of the Middle East and South Asian Countries";

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken in this direction; and

(c) whether the requisite number of circuits are available whereby India