

ence, Shri G. V. Mavalankar in his address that:

"The new Central leprosy teaching and research institute at Madras would no doubt make its own contribution in addition to research by qualified men in laboratories and in the field, but the asylums might also have a research section where qualified research workers could carry on research work."

Will this proposal be accepted by Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Certainly, it will be given the consideration it merits.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Have Government any statistics with regard to the exact number of lepers in this country?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is very difficult to say, but we reckon that there are at least 2 million lepers in India.

Dr. Rama Rao: I understand the hon. Minister as saying in Hindi—which I did not understand well—that they are trying BCG vaccination as a method of prevention in Chingleput. May I know if any conclusions have been drawn on the experiment?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The experiment with BCG has only just begun and it is therefore too early to give results.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

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

(a) the number of waiting halls and sheds constructed on the North-Eastern Railway during the year 1954; and

(b) whether it is a fact that at the Dighwara railway station an upper class waiting room has been constructed instead of a third class passengers' shed as originally planned?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 9 waiting halls and sheds for III Class and 7 waiting rooms for Upper Class passengers.

(b) It is a fact that an upper class waiting room has been constructed at Dighwara as none was existing to meet the requirements of upper class traffic dealt with at this station. However the work of extending the existing third class waiting accommodation will also be taken up shortly.

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कोई एक नियम बनाया गया है या कोई सिद्धान्त ऐसे नियुक्त किये गये हैं कि कहां कहां वॉटिंग हाल्स और पैसेंजर शेल्स बनाये जायें ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जी हां, इनके लिये तो खास हिदायतें जारी की गयी हैं और उन्हीं के मुताबिक काम किया जाता है ।

पंडित डी० एन० तिवारी : क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि दिघवारा रेलवे स्टेशन पर अपर क्लास के पैसेंजर्स शायद ही एक या दो नित्य आते हैं जब कि थर्ड क्लास के पैसेंजर्स चार साँ और पांच साँ के करीब रोज वहां पर आते हैं तो वहां पर अपर क्लास का वॉटिंग हाल बनाने की क्या जरूरत थी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : वहां दिघवारा में एक वॉटिंग हाल है जो बुकिंग बिडो का वॉटिंग हाल है और उसके लिये यह सुना गया है कि २५५ मुरब्बा फुट जगह वहां के थर्ड क्लास के मुसाफिरों के लिये काफी है लेकिन उसके बरअक्स ३५२ मुरब्बा फुट जगह वहां पर थर्ड क्लास के पैसेंजर्स के लिए मौजूद है, जब हमारा आनरबुल मेम्बर वर्गेरह भी वहां पर जाते रहते हैं तो उनके वास्तु हमने अपर क्लास का वॉटिंग हाल भी बना दिया है ।

Shri Bogawat: Are the Government aware that in the industrially developed area of the Dhond-Manmad line there is urgent need for waiting rooms and halls?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Railway Board have laid down a definite policy whereby waiting halls are to be provided at all stations. That is one of the minimum amenities that is to be provided at all stations as soon as possible.

INDIAN SHIPPING

*871. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for the development of shipping envisaged an expenditure of Rs. 23.16 crores, but during the last three years a sum of Rs. 6.54 crores could only be spent thereon; and

(b) if so, the reason for the slow progress?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the position is that a sum of Rs. 8.49 crores was spent during the last three years, namely, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54. During the current year, however, a further sum of Rs. 11.08 crores has been sanctioned for expenditure so far. The total amount sanctioned up-to-date is thus Rs. 19.57 crores and it is hoped that before the plan period is over the entire sum of Rs. 23.16 crores will have been spent.

(b) In view of the position stated in reply to part (a), the progress of expenditure cannot be considered to be slow.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : २२ करोड़ रुपया जो कुल इसके लिये अलाट किया गया है, उसमें से सरकार केवल ६ करोड़ रुपया खर्च कर पायी है और काफी रुपये बच गया है तो शिपिंग के महत्व को देखते हुए सरकार इस बाकी रुपये को जल्द से जल्द खर्च करने के लिये क्या सोच रही है ?

ईश्वर तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : जवाब में बहुत साफ कहा गया है कि ८ करोड़ रुपया तो खर्च हुआ, लेकिन १९

करोड़ और ज्यादा खर्च हो जाने वाला है और हम यह उम्मीद करते हैं कि २२ करोड़ रुपया जो इसके लिये रखा गया है, वह पूरा खर्च हो जायेगा। इससे ज्यादा हम क्या कोशिश कर सकते हैं।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फर्स्ट फाइव इयर प्लान सन् ५५, ५६ में समाप्त हो रहा है, तीन साल में केवल ८ करोड़ रुपया ही खर्च हो पाया है, तो अगले दो साल में बाकी सारा रुपया कैसे खर्च हो पायेगा? आपका जवाब स्पष्ट नहीं है।

Shri Alagesan: The fact was that the loans that we provided for coastal shipping were utilised and until November, 1953 the overseas companies did not come forward to avail of the loans set apart for overseas shipping. Then the terms of the loans were liberalised, and they are beginning to avail of these loans. So it is expected that the progress will be quicker.

Shri Joachim Alva: Was any amount specially allotted for the purchase of tankers, and do Government want to help ship-owners to buy tankers?

Shri Alagesan: Private ship-owners were not very enthusiastic about purchase of tankers.

POSTAL CONCESSIONS FOR NEWSPAPERS

*872. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total loss in revenue of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department on account of the concessional postage allowed to newspapers during 1953-54?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The loss is estimated as Rs. 116 lakhs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the papers enjoying this concession include crossword puzzles, business magazines and all such private publications that only give rates and other things to businessmen?