

## RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*1499. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some permanent vacancies in Class III and Class IV grades on the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway that are being filled by the relieving staff; and

(b) if so, the number of such vacancies and when they will be filled up by regular staff?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) Class III—105.

Class IV—34.

Arrangements are in progress to fill these posts by regular staff and release the relieving staff.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** May I know for how long these vacancies are there?

**Shri Alagesan:** For some of the vacancies that arose in 1954 we could not get candidates, because there was dearth of candidates going before the Railway Service Commission. But for vacancies in the posts of station masters and assistant station masters, candidates have been chosen, and they are under training now, and they will be available by the first week of May. Certain other posts also will be filled up by the beginning of April.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** It was stated by the hon. Minister of Railways during the Budget Debate that there was a proposal to increase the age of retirement from 55 to 60 or something more. At what stage is that proposal?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know how that question arises. But there is no such proposal.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** That question arises because to fill up shortage

in the recruitment, they wanted to increase the age of retirement.

**Shri Alagesan:** This is a question of permanent posts being filled up by relieving staff, until such time as permanent staff are recruited. These recruitments are made in the lower rungs.

## TUBE-WELLS

\*1501. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the number of tube-wells sunk in each State during the last three years?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** A statement, showing the number of tube-wells drilled during the last three years under schemes of large scale tube-well construction for irrigation, sponsored by the Government of India, is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 51.]

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** I find from the statement laid on the Table, that there have been no tube-wells sunk in West Bengal during the financial year 1954-55; and from the Food Ministry's Report also, I find that none are proposed to be sunk in 1955-56. Is that so?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is correct, because West Bengal did not figure in the agreement and in the proposal for digging tube-wells.

**Shrimati Ila Palchowdhury:** Considering the large influx of refugees and the question of clean drinking water being an absolute emergency question, will Government take up the matter of sinking tube-wells in Bengal now?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It would be very costly and luxurious to dig tube-wells of this type for providing drinking water.

श्री एम० एम० शिबरी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो ट्यूब वेल्ल रज्यों में लगाये गए हैं क्या वह सफलतापूर्वक कार्य कर रहे

हैं, यदि नहीं, तो किन किन स्थानों पर, और अगले साल कितने ट्यूब वेल्स लगाये जायेंगे?

**डा० पी० एस० ईशामुख :** यह बहुत बड़ी स्कीम है और इस के काफी एंग्रीमेंट्स हैं। शुरू में हमने ६६० ट्यूब वेल्स का एंग्रीमेंट किया था उस के बाद कोई २००० और उस के भी बाद ६०५० का एंग्रीमेंट किया। उन के काम के निस्वत में यह कह सकता हूँ कि वह बहुत कामयाब हैं और अच्छी तरह से काम कर रहे हैं।

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** May I know whether Government have received any complaint about the working of these tube-wells?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not so far, not to my knowledge at least.

#### SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

\*1504. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to advance a loan to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company;

(b) if so, the purpose for which the loan is proposed to be advanced;

(c) the amount of the loan; and

(d) the terms thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) to (c). Government have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 183.6 lakhs to Messrs: Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay, for the construction of two ships for operation in the overseas trade. It is also proposed to sanction a further loan of about Rs. 34 lakhs to the Company for the construction of three more ships for operation in the Overseas trade.

(d) A statement showing the main terms and conditions of the loans is laid on the table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 52.]

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know when this contract was entered

into and whether all the ships are going to be constructed here or orders for the construction of any one of them are going to be placed abroad?

**Shri Alagesan:** Orders for these five ships will be placed on a German Yard. The Scindias have placed orders on the Visakhapatnam Yard too for about five ships.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether such loan has also been given to any other shipping concern?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, these loans have been given to many of the coastal shipping companies as well as other overseas companies.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know what effort is being made on behalf of Government to see that the coastal shipping trade is not sabotaged by foreign shipping concerns?

**Shri Alagesan:** We have reserved the coastal trade completely for Indian shipping. So there is no question of anybody sabotaging the coastal trade and doing anything against Indian interests.

**Shri Kasliwal:** At a recent meeting of the shareholders of this company, certain allegations of mismanagement and maladministration were made. May I know whether, before granting this loan, Government made any inquiry into those allegations, and whether they were found correct?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not have any information as to that. It may be the internal concern of the company concerned, but as far as the loans are concerned, they are fully secured and there should be no difficulty in recovering the loans. These loans are given to increase the shipping tonnage.

**Shri Barman:** Is it a fact that though the Scindia Steam Navigation Company placed orders on the Visakhapatnam Shipyard as far back as 1953, they are not getting any ship before the end of 1956, and the dates