

Dr. M. M. Das : In the year 1953-54 a sum of Rs. 10,531 was spent. In 1954-55 a sum of Rs. 13,054 was spent. And in the current year, that is 1955-56, it is proposed to spend Rs. 30,110 for annual repairs and Rs. 23,400 on special repairs.

Steamer Service to the Laccadives

*246. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 527 on the 8th August, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the request of the Government of Madras for aid in connection with running of a direct steamer service between the mainland and the Laccadive Islands has been considered; and

(b) if so, the decision arrived at in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar) : (a) Yes.

(b) It has been decided that a steamer service should be started as soon as possible and if the Madras Govt. incur any loss in running the same, the Government of India would contribute towards meeting the loss.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : In reply to part (b) of the question the hon. Minister has stated "as soon as possible". May I know whether any definite date has been fixed for the running of these steamers—because the whole question has been hanging fire for the last several years?

Shri Datar : The Government of Madras are taking certain preliminary steps, and early in the next year this service will come into operation.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know whether any negotiations have been going on with any company in this connection and, if so, which company?

Shri Datar : Negotiations have been going on, but ultimately it is for the Madras Government to settle the whole affair.

Shri L. Bacharan : Will it be a weekly or a fortnightly service?

Shri Datar : It would be a monthly service.

Educational Qualifications and Recruitments

*251. **Shri Jhulan Sinha :** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the progress made by the Committee which may be entrusted with the examination of the question whether university degree is necessary for entry into Government service?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das) : The question is still being examined by Public Service (Qualification for Recruitment) Committee. The Committee is likely to submit its report by the 31st March, 1956.

Shri Jhulan Sinha : May I know if there is already a system current for the recruitment of the Defence Services where consideration is taken only of a person's aptitude and ability and not academic qualification?

Dr. M. M. Das : We do not propose that the Public Service Examinations should be ruled out. They will be there for recruitment purposes.

Shri Jhulan Sinha : I want to know whether such a system is already current or not?

Dr. M. M. Das : What system?

Shri Jhulan Sinha : The system of recruitment, for the Defence Services, irrespective of the academic qualifications possessed by the candidate.

Dr. M. M. Das : Until and unless we receive the recommendations of this Committee, this question cannot be answered.

Mr. Speaker : He wants to know whether any such thing is current at present, apart from the Committee report. What is the system current today, that is the question.

Dr. M. M. Das : The system that is current today is known to everybody. So far as the Civil Administration is concerned, the U.P.S.C. examinations are there for recruitment.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know whether the Committee set up by the Ministry will take into consideration that a non-matric has been able to pass M.A. in the second division, thereby setting at nought the value of these public examinations?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. I think this is a question which should be put to the Committee for consideration, rather than asking the Minister.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether the opinions of the various State Governments have been asked for in this connection and, if so, whether they have been received?

Dr. M. M. Das : The Committee proposes to go to some of the States and have the opinion of the State Governments