

3. Retirement age of the seaman is to be reduced to 58 years from the present 60 years.
4. A scheme for financial assistance to the unemployed seamen be worked out and implemented.
5. Issue of Continuous Discharge Certificates to be confined to the Shipping Master at Bombay and Calcutta only.
6. Pre-entry medical standards for seamen to be reviewed.
7. Pre-entry educational qualification to be raised to standard X (pass) from standard VIII (pass).

Orders have been issued that the reduced retirement age would be applicable to seamen who are registered on or after 1-7-1982.

This has been discussed in detail at various meetings of shipowners and seafarers but no acceptable scheme has yet been finalised.

Orders have been issued restricting the issue of CDCs to Bombay and Calcutta.

After consultation with Ministry of Defence, it is felt that existing medical standards are adequate.

Since pre-sea training has been suspended now, the revised educational standards will be decided at the time of next advertisement for intake of trainees.

[*Translation*]

Measures to avoid inconvenience caused to Passengers in getting Reservation of Berths in moving Trains

2569. SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken to avoid inconvenience caused to the passengers at present in getting reservation of berths in the moving Utkal and Kalinga Express trains and to ensure that such reservation is done without difficulty; and

(b) whether Government propose to display the information about vacant berths on the notice boards of the platforms immediately on the arrival of the trains at the stations ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). Instructions exist that the position regarding vacant berths on the trains should, as far as possible, be relayed to each succeeding halt in advance of the arrival of the train and should also be displayed on the side-panels of coaches by TTEs manning such

coaches. In addition, specific quotas of reserved accommodation depending on regular traffic offering and other relevant factors, are also allotted to various intermediate stations for independent booking for the convenience of passengers boarding at such stations.

[*English*]

Recognition of Degree of Lvov Medical Institute, USSR by Medical Council of India

2570. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of uniform syllabus and standard of medical education in the various medical institutes in the USSR, the degree of the Lvov Medical Institute is yet to be recognised by the Medical Council of India which has already recognised the degree of a number of Soviet Medical Institutes; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to have the recognition of the said degree decided by the Medical Council of India ?