

Dr. Suresh Chandrai: Are Government aware of the rude behaviour of the conductors towards the general public, and if so what steps have Government taken to make them more courteous to the general public?

Shri Alagesan: We have received such complaints; we have been receiving them off and on. A school has been opened to train these people in courtesy and good behaviour towards the public.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether Government are in a position to state whether an adequate number of buses have been put on the road to cope up with the requirements of Delhi, and if not, by which time they will be able to do so?

Shri Alagesan: I think so.

Northern Railway Out-Agency

*71. **Shri Gopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints against the contractor running the Railway Out Agency in Tehsil Padampur-Ganganagar Section, on the Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries were made in connection with four complaints received from different parties; but the complaints were not substantiated. Enquiries in connection with seven more complaints, received from certain other parties are to be held shortly.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Do Government consider the antecedents of such contractors before appointing them as contractors of these out-agencies?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Of course, all that is taken into consideration. Tenders are called for, and only those persons who fulfil the necessary conditions given the contract.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948

*72. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to amend certain provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948; and

(b) if so, the nature of amendments proposed to be made?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Are Government aware that in certain industries medical and other facilities provided under the State Insurance Act fall short of what the workers were originally getting, and as a result, there is great discontent over the application of this Act? If so, do Government propose to make a thorough inquiry into the matter and bring in suitable modifications?

Shri Abid Ali: Which particular industry does the hon. Member refer to? It is not clear to me.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Jute and certain other industries.

Shri Abid Ali: In Calcutta, the scheme has been introduced. In the beginning, there was some opposition, but we understand that the workers are reconciled to it and they are making use of the scheme in the jute industry also.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Is it not a fact that the workers have made a representation that certain amendments are necessary in order that the provisions of the Act are brought in line with the existing provisions?

Shri Abid Ali: If any representation is received, it will be given due consideration. But I do not remember having seen any.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In the last session, the hon. Minister said that Government were considering extending the medical benefits to the dependants and families of the employees and workers. May I know what decision has since been arrived at on that?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): As I have already said, the report has been made. It is not only under consideration, but it had been placed before the last Labour Ministers' Conference, and they have taken a decision that medical benefits be extended to the members of families. They will be submitting their new proposals to the Planning Commission, because if the benefits are to be extended to the members of families, provision has to be made in the budgets of the States during the next few years. That question is now under negotiation with the States, because, as the hon. Member knows, the States have to bear one-fourth of the expenditure incurred in the medical aid.