

the contract was extended in favour of the present Out-agents in 1973 and 1976 and if so, their particulars and how the former was preferred over them;

(b) whether in 1976 when the last contract was assigned, why the period of usual 3 years was raised to 5 years and whether any public notifications or notices inviting applications for allotment of this Out-agency were issued by the Railway Administration, if so, in which of the papers and was the period of 5 years mentioned therein; and

(c) the outcome of the Vigilance enquiry against the present Out-agents for the malpractices indulged in by them and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As the contract of the existing contractor was renewed, there was no need for inviting fresh applications.

(b) As per existing procedure on Northern Railway, the contract for Out-agencies is initially awarded for a period of three years with a provision for termination or renewal for a period of 3 to 5 years at the option of the Railway Administration. The contract for the Jagadhari Town Out-agency was extended for a period of five years from 1976, because of satisfactory performance of the contractor during the previous contract periods.

(c) The Vigilance Organisation has not recommended any action against the Out-agency.

Banning Dadan labour system

5513. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to guarantee amenities like minimum wages and legal protection to Dadan labourers;

(b) whether Government are considering to ban the Dadan labour system;

and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (c). Dadan or migrant labour is the product of insufficient employment opportunities which cause people to migrate in search of jobs. To regulate the employment of these inter-state migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service and allied matters, Parliament has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act, seeks to provide basic amenities including minimum wages, legal protection, medical facilities and clothing.

Stray dog population in the country

5514. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the stray dog Population in the country particularly in big cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay;

(b) whether there is any check exercised by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the problem of stray dogs to solve rabies problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No survey regarding the stray dog population in the country has been conducted

(b) To catch stray dogs, raids are conducted by the Municipalities and Corporations and/or the Veterinary Departments of the State Health Directorates.

(c) The Government is aware of the problem of rabies in the country. National Committee on Zoonoses has been constituted in 1978, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,