

traffic over and above the normal load at Maniharight and paid by the Railways during the period 15th August, 1947, to April, 1956 and May 1956, to April, 1957 in terms of the provisions in the Agreement?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). A statement is attached giving the information desired. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 48.]

It has been assumed that in part (a) also the information desired is for handling for distances beyond the normal lead as in part (b).

Sanitary Arrangements in Laccadive Islands

1485. Shri Nallakoya: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for sanitary arrangements in Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi islands;

(b) whether Government are aware of the spreading of filaria in the islands; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken for preventing it?

The Minister of Health (Shri D. P. Karmarkar): (a) The following steps have been taken for sanitary arrangements on the Islands:—

(i) Health Inspectors are proposed to be appointed on all the islands except Bitra during the Second Plan. Steps have been taken to appoint three Health Inspectors in 1957-58. These Inspectors besides attending to antiferarial work will attend to preventive work and improvement of the general sanitary conditions on the islands.

(ii) A scheme for giving subsidy for closing down the step wells which are in filthy condition and sinking open draw wells and for constructing

water seal pit latrines, has been included in the Second Five Year Plan. The details of the scheme are being formulated. It is proposed to spend about Rs. 16,500 during 1957-58. Out of Rs. 63,000 proposed to be spent during the Plan period for constructing 40 to 50 wells and about 140 latrines.

(b) Yes. Filariasis is prevalent on Androth, Agathy, Kalpeni Kiltan, Chetlat, Bitra and Kadamath Island.

(c) The appointment of Health Inspectors, closing down of the mosquito breeding centres like bathing tanks, step wells etc., regular D.D.T. spraying, keeping the residential surroundings in sanitary conditions, treatment with Hetrazan tablets, sinking of open draw wells and construction of latrines are measures proposed for preventing the spread of filaria on the Islands. A detailed plan of operation for the control of filaria on the Islands has been prepared and is under consideration.

Shipping Freight Rates

1486. Shri Kumaran: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Conference Lines Steamers increased the freight rates to the U.K. and the Continent in January, 1955 and again in March, 1956;

(b) whether it is a fact that the incidence of the increased freight works out to 33 per cent. of the value of the coir products exported to U.K. and the Continent;

(c) whether Government are aware that the increase in freight increases the ultimate cost of the coir products in foreign markets and impairs their competitive capacity; and

(d) whether Government have made any attempt to persuade the Conference Lines to exempt coir mats and mattings from the increase in shipping freight?