

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) From the 27th August, 1947 to the 11th June, 1953.

(b) Yes, from the 12th April, 1948 to the 11th June, 1953.

(c) Election every year was not necessary under the Rules and Regulations of the Association for the control and management of the institution.

(d) No.

SEAMEN IN BOMBAY PORT

***276. Shri Pannoose:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of unemployed seamen (Government trainees and ex-Naval Ratings) in the Bombay Port;

(b) whether Government have received complaints regarding the refusal of the Deputy Shipping Master at Bombay to secure jobs for them and asking them to directly approach the shipping companies; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The employment of seafarers is intermittent and on an average a seaman has to wait for three or four months before selection for a fresh voyage. The number of trainee seaman and ex-naval ratings waiting for employment does not generally exceed 100 at any one time.

(b) and (c). Such a complaint was received some time ago but on enquiry it was found to be misconceived. Seamen are recruited directly by the shipping companies and the Deputy Shipping Master has no power to secure employment. What he can do is to render assistance to seamen to get employment and this assistance is always given by the officers of the Shipping Office.

CENTRAL BOARD OF WILD LIFE

***280. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by

the Central Board of Wild Life to conserve and control the Wild Life?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to Shri L. J. Singh's Starred Question No. 714 on the 12th March, 1953 in which a statement containing the resolutions adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life at its first session and the action taken thereon was placed on the Table of the House.

RAILWAY MUTUAL BENEFIT FUND SCHEME

***290. Shri B. Y. Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Railway Board are considering the extension of the Mutual Benefit Fund Scheme to the employees of the Stores, Engineering and Traffic Departments at Secunderabad Division?

(b) If so, have any final orders been issued by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

TRANSHIPMENT AT SABARMATI

***297. Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of transhipment bottlenecks at Sabarmati Railway Station; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to remove the transhipment bottlenecks there?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The capacity for transhipment at Sabarmati is not adequate to meet the requirements fully of traffic from Broad Gauge to Metre Gauge.

(b) Proposals are already in hand for remodelling of the Sabarmati Yard and arrangements are being made to increase the number of cranes.