

money, you have to deposit the differential with the Government of India; if you do not do that, you would not be registered: we will not allow your registration". That is how you have made a misleading and wrong statement in the House.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I am very sorry that the hon. Member is not fully informed. At no stage have we said that we are against this equalisation of wage.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: This has appeared in the Statesman.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: The hon. Member is going by whatever has appeared in the Statesman. The position is that the Indian ship-owners and the seamen have adopted a common approach: it has nothing to do with the Government of India. They have evolved a common approach. The Government of UK have adopted the policy of equalisation of wage. Their approach is that the National Maritime Wage Board rate would be payable to the Indian seamen, who are employed on Indian or foreign vessels and any differentiation between the NMT wage rate and the higher rate on foreign flags would be funded to the Indian Seamen's Welfare Fund. It is the decision of the seamen, viz., Forward Seamen's. It is not ours.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE: Sir, here the Minister said that trade unions have agreed with the Maritime Board. My question is: (a) Is it not a fact that only one section of the workers are represented in this Maritime Board? (b) Is it not a fact that an organisation which represents the seamen, viz., Forward Seamen's Union, have repeatedly requested the Government to end this discrimination?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: When I say, Seamen's Union, I say the recognised Seamen's Union. I do not know how many unions are here. If they are not recognised, I cannot take cognizance of them.

Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry

*463. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) nature of activities carried on by the Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry;

(b) what are the antecedents of the present head of this centre;

(c) whether it has been alleged that funds of the Vector Central Research Centre have been diverted only for the development of Biological agents:

(d) whether it has also been alleged that biological agents like Serraria Marceena is being intensively studied and all the results of the experiments are supplied to foreign agents without the knowledge of the Government of India; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (d). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) The question does not arise.

Statement

(a) The Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry is engaged in research on control of Vectors of malaria and filariasis with the objective of finding an effective method of controlling them.

(b) The present head of the Centre has been with the Indian Council of Medical Research since 1953. He has been associated with the Virus Research Centre of the Council from 1953 to 1970, with the ICMR/WHO Research Unit on Genetic Control of Mosquitoes from June, 1970 to June,

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1975 and with the Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry from July 1975 onwards.

(c) No. The research activities of the Centre cover a wide range, which are as follows:—

- (i) Biological Control.
- (ii) Malaria.
- (iii) Filariasis.
- (iv) Ecology.
- (v) Environmental Control.
- (vi) Insecticides.
- (vii) Genetics.
- (viii) Rearing & Colonisation.
- (ix) Parasitology.

(d) No work is being done by the Centre on the agent *Serratia Morcesuns* and no data is being supplied to any foreign agents/source. The results of all the studies undertaken by the Centre are published in the "Indian Journal of Medical Research" by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I wish Dr. Karan Singh was here. The Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament in 1973-74 and 1974-75 was seized of the matter and it revealed that the American Defence Organisation for the global strategy had organised a research project in India. In case they wanted to wage a war, biological, herbisical and chemical warfare against the Soviet Union and China, they wanted to set up a project, and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that instead of some Indian officials or Indian scientists or doctors working in this organisation, migratory birds and other animals carrying viruses are dissected and sera and blood have been sent on slides to American Defence Pathological Institute. I would like to know whether he has gone through those documents and whether he has also seen that recently the Pentagon paper which has been released has confirmed.... (Interruptions). The Pentagon paper which

has been released has confirmed the Public Accounts Committee Report. In that context, may I ask the hon. Health Minister, our old friend Mr. Shankaranand, what steps is he taking to ensure that no undesirable or unwarranted activities are undertaken by this sort of organisations where money from abroad is coming for financing this sort of a project?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, though the question asked by my friend does not arise directly from this question because he has asked the question about Pondicherry, he is not asking anything about it. (Interruptions) Please look into the question yourself and be satisfied whether your question is relevant.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please tell the Minister that relevancy is decided by you, Sir.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I would have refused, but I don't. But I can only say that I am quite aware of the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee regarding the issue raised by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu and Government have taken specific action to see that such things are not done for the sake of safety and security of the nation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that....

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You must remember that it was I who brought this to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Not at all.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Arguments outside the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It was done by an eminent scientist, I must be grateful to him. He is a patriotic scientist who brought this to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee. (Interruptions). May I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that a project quite comparable to this one was thrown out by at least two governments, one was in Tanzania and the other was in Burma, where they went on the pretext of genetic control of mosquitoes and other epidemic diseases carrying viruses. If so, how the Government would view this, because the Defence Intelligence has written a note....

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the question. Don't tell him anything.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, Sir. I won't divulge the State secrets. It was contended to justify their coming in, that since they are not going to the border area of Delhi, we allowed them to do the research here. For chemical and herbisical warfare or for biological warfare, you don't need to go to that part of the country. That much of intelligence is there. I would like to ask whether—you enquire from your friend sitting next to you—some Governments have thrown out this sort of project financed by World Health Organisation or other phony international organisations.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, we have taken all care not to allow any phony international organisation to risk the country's safety and security.

Extension of BG line to Raiganj from Barsoi

*464. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend broad gauge line to Raiganj from Barsoi in North Eastern Railway and starting Gour Express

from Raiganj instead of Maldah extending railway facilities to both these important towns of North Bengal;

(b) if so, the steps taken on that; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present capacity of Barsoi-Raiganj-Radhikapur MG section is adequate to cater for the traffic requirements. Due to severe constraint of resources, it is not possible to undertake construction of BG line upto Raiganj at present.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Railway Minister through his more impressive Deputy Minister has again come out with a negative answer. Sir, the answer to this question would confirm what has been expressed just now that there is a clear coincidence between the area producing Ministers and the area producing new trains or new lines because we have a Minister from Durbhanga to get Jayanti Janata, a Minister from Bhagalpur to get Vikramshila, a Minister from Banaras to get Kashi Vishwanath. Malda had to wait till it gets a Cabinet Minister to get Gour Express and I wonder whether Raiganj is not getting the BG line as it could not produce a Minister. You will appreciate that Raiganj is only 15 miles from Barsoi which has got only one station in between and it is gateway to North Bengal and its conversion to BG line would have increased to a great extent the passenger and commercial traffic in that area. In view of that, may I know whether he has assessed the actual financial commitments required for upgrading this meter gauge line to BG line?