

**Shri A. P. Jain:** In fact, the system varies from place to place. In U.P., the State Government have linked the milled products with the fair price shops. In other places, sometimes quotas are given. For instance, in Bengal some quotas are given for the districts. There is on one uniform system. It has to vary from place to place. In some places it is only the price that is controlled and the products are sold through millers' agents; in other places the sale is linked with the fair price shops; in other places quotas are given.

**Shri Tyagi:** So, I take it there is no control on sales.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know if the price of wheat has fallen; if so, by how much?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The price of wheat in the Punjab has come down by Rs. 2 and in some places more. In U.P. it has gone down by Rs. 2 and in some places more, in other places less.

#### Short Notice Questions and Answers

#### Charging of Extra Fares on account of Diversion

**S.N.Q. No. 11, Shri Jinachandran:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that from long distance passengers extra fare is charged for the distance of the diversion on account of repairs on the Delhi-Madras Grand Trunk route?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** It is not correct that all passengers have to pay fares by the longer, diverted route.

Passengers booked by the normal route, prior to the notification of restriction, are allowed to travel by the diverted route without payment of any additional charges. But passengers booked thereafter are charged by the route by which they travel.

**Shri Jinachandran:** In view of the extra hardship suffered and longer

time taken by the long distance passengers on account of the dislocations, and in view of the small percentage of such long distance passengers, will the Government consider the general question of not increasing the fares in future at least?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** This is not an innovation in any way. This is one of the accepted commercial practices.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members say that on account of unforeseen circumstances and natural calamities a diversion takes place. Why should not the railways charge only the same fare for through passengers?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Where the tickets have been purchased and the notification about the diversion is not issued, no excess fare is charged, but after the notification is issued regarding the diversion of the train by the longer route, passengers are charged by the route on which they travel on a mileage basis.

**Shri Hem Barua:** The diversion is not the responsibility of the passengers. This is done by the Ministry and why should the passengers be made to pay extra?

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members are entitled to put questions eliciting information on facts. The hon. Minister says this is the practice that they have adopted. The hon. Minister is also seeing a number of Hon. Members getting up simultaneously. They are making a suggestion. I am sure the hon. Minister will consider it.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He says when the diversion is notified, there will be excess fare.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** How can that be? The hon. Minister has stated that this is the accepted practice. There have been diversions on various occasions. Has there been any case where the fares have been increased except this one?

**Mr. Speaker:** No question of increase. All that he says is....

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** It is an increase.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no meaning in this. Hon. Members may feel that when this diversion is due to some accident or some unforeseen circumstances or natural calamities etc., the fares of through passengers ought not to be increased at all, that is, the additional mileage ought not to be charged. The hon. Minister says that in all the cases before the notification it was not charged, and after the notification it is the practice to charge. Hon. Members want to have a charge in the practice. The hon. Minister will consider it, but there are appropriate proceedings for it, not the Question Hour. Why should all Hon. Members simultaneously get up?

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The distance between Delhi and Madras is 1,300 miles. By the diverted route one has to travel another 500 miles. He has to pay an extra fare of almost 33 1/3 or 35 per cent. Is it fair when it is due to natural calamity?

**Shri Tyagi:** The case deserves special consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** He is a Deputy Minister. The hon. Minister must also be consulted. The Hon. Members have made a suggestion. He is as much alive to this as others, and therefore it is not a question which can be solved now. Other independent proceedings have to be taken. He will consult the hon. Minister and try to see what can be done in the matter.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will he make a statement before the end of the session?

**Shri G. K. Manay:** I will give one instance. Between Bombay and Poona there were breaches and an announcement was made by the railway that there were breaches and a diversion would take place from Manmad via Dhond, and the passengers there had to pay three times the normal fare between Bombay and

Poona despite the announcement by the railway authorities.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is only just strengthening the hands of the hon. Minister, that this is not the only occasion they have charged. The matter will be considered by him. Hon. Members ought not to make suggestions. Of course one or two suggestions are caught by the hon. Minister.

#### Diwali Travelling Concessions

**S.N.Q. No. 12. Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Diwali Travelling concessions in fares have been announced from the 29th October 1958 upto the 11th November, 1958 only;

(b) whether Government are aware that as Diwali falls this year on the 11th November and New Year on the 12th November, the expiry of concessions before the holidays will cause hardship to the public; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, Sir. Concessional return tickets will be issued from 29th October 1958 upto 11th November 1958 only, but the concessional return tickets will be available for completion of the return journey for 15 days from the date of issue.

(b) No, Sir. In view of the answer to part (a) no hardship is anticipated.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is giving concessions for Deepavali and other things. Why not he give concession so far as the diversion due to an accident is concerned? There is no good being too rigid in this matter following an ancient principle which was being followed by the previous Government. The hon. Minister will kindly consider the inconveniences caused to the general public.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We would like to consider it.