

STAFF CARS WITH MINISTRIES

*763. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what was the total number of staff cars available with each Ministry and its attached offices in New Delhi and Delhi prior to 15th August, 1947?

(b) What is the number of staff cars available with each Ministry and its attached offices in Delhi and New Delhi at present?

(c) Has there been an increase in the yearly consumption of the quantity of petrol for the use of these staff cars after 15th August, 1947?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what has been the increase in the quantity of petrol consumed?

(e) What is the total yearly increase in expenditure on the maintenance of the staff cars after 15th August, 1947?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 35.]

(c) to (e). There has been an increase in petrol consumption of approximately 11,917 gallons a year since 15th August, 1947. There has also been an increase in the expenditure on the maintenance of staff cars of approximately Rs. 49,883/- per year. This data does not, however, include the figures of petrol consumption and expenditure on maintenance of cars belonging to the Defence Ministry, as all the vehicles belonging to the 3 Services are maintained in Army Workshops and it is, therefore, not practicable to separate the figures pertaining to staff cars alone.

Shri Gidwani: Are the Government aware that these staff cars were utilised by any Minister for election work in the last general elections?

Shri Alagesan: We are not aware.

Shri Gidwani: Will the hon. Minister then collect that information and lay it on the Table of the House?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know how it arises.

Shri Gidwani: It does arise I want to know whether they were used for the purpose for which they were intended.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty will be, to my mind, that Ministers are changing.

Shri Gidwani: Provided the Ministers continue I want the Minister, whoever.....

Mr. Speaker: Any other question?

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether apart from these staff cars any other vehicles were supplied to any Ministry?

Shri Alagesan: We are not aware.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether a daily record is maintained to show for what purpose these cars are being used?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. Now a scheme for the pooling of all the staff cars has been finalised and approved. Uniform log books have been issued and they are very properly and regularly maintained.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether any record is maintained as to the quantity of petrol used every week, if not daily?

Shri Alagesan: All these things come in.

Shri Gidwani: What is the . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; let us not go much into detail.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Is there a central servicing station and repair workshop for all the staff cars or are the different Ministries free to send their cars for servicing to private workshops?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. It is proposed now under the present pooling arrangement to have all the staff cars serviced in the Civil Aviation Department Workshop.

Shri Nambiar: Arising out of the answer given by the Minister, may I know whether Government have instituted an enquiry into the fact as to why such a huge increase is there in the consumption of petrol by the Ministers' Cars?

Shri Alagesan: It is not Ministers' cars, but Ministries' cars. Because the work has increased considerably, a larger quantity of petrol is consumed.

UPGRADING OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

*764. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what is the Scheme of 'upgrading of departments' which was inaugurated at the Medical College at Madras?

(b) Is it a Scheme suggested by the Centre or has it been done on the initiative of the State concerned?

(c) Has the Centre incurred any expenditure for this upgrading?

(d) Does the Centre contemplate recommending this Scheme for other States also and if so, what are the details?