

Department in connection with the 58th Session of the All-India Congress?

(b) What was the total expenditure incurred by the department on these arrangements?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) To meet the abnormal rush of traffic the arrangements made included the following:—

12 Inward and 9 Outward Special Trains to and from Hyderabad and Kacheguda, from and to various parts of the country;

haulage of additional carriages by some daily trains;

issue of return tickets for all classes on payment of two single journey fares per ticket;

provision of temporary additional facilities at Hyderabad (BG) and Kacheguda (MG) such as waiting sheds with sanitary conveniences, bathing facilities, food stalls, booking offices for booking of passengers and their luggage; and

provision of an Enquiry, Booking and Reservation office at Nanalnagar at the Congress Camp.

(b) Rs. 42,000 approximately for the temporary additional facilities provided at Hyderabad and Kacheguda stations and at Nanalnagar Congress Camp.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस कांग्रेस की सबब से रेलवे की क्या आमदनी हुई ?

Shri Alagesan: We have not been able to collect the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If any other hon. Member wants to put his question, he may do so.

The Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

'A' CLASS VISAS ISSUED BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*554. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'A' class visas issued by India and Pakistan respectively up to the 31st December, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has not been issuing 'A' class visas to Indian citizens; and

(c) whether it is a fact that small businessmen and cultivators on the Indian borders are not given proper facilities of harvesting their crop on the other side and of doing daily business?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Till the 31st December, 1952, 2854 Category 'A' visas were issued by Indian Visa Issuing Authorities. The Government of India have no official statistics of the visas issued by Pakistan Visa Issuing Authorities, but they understand that less than 100 Category 'A' visas were issued to Indian nationals during the same period.

(b) and (c). The inadequate issue of Category 'A' visas to Indian nationals has caused considerable hardship. But this seems to have been due more to the inadequacy of Pakistan's administrative arrangements than to a deliberate denial of facilities to any particular class of persons. This was brought to the notice of the Pakistan delegation to the recent Passports Conference, and the latter promised to remedy it. It has also been taken up with the Government of East Bengal by the Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.

ESTIMATE OF BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

*555. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimate of expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Project made in 1949 has been considerably exceeded at present;

(b) if so, by what amount the estimate has gone up; and

(c) what are the reasons therefore?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathli): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 23 crores approximately.

(c) (1) Increase in cost of works on account of higher prices of construction materials, carriage and labour rates;

(2) Increase in the quantity of works to be done as a result of detailed investigations, change in design and specifications and increase in the scope of the Project; and

(3) Increase in the cost of imported machinery and equipment due to devaluation of the rupee.