

Shri Bansal: Are these Social Guides ladies or men?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are men.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Social Guides have been used to counter the bad effects of anti-social guides operating in and around railway stations?

We know that there are anti-social activities in and around railway stations. May I know whether these Social Guides are being used to counter the effect of their work?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether they are carrying on any propaganda, political or other?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are not carrying on any political propaganda.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Are there any conditions at the time of recruitment that they should know the regional languages of the passengers who travel?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Naturally, that would be a very preliminary thing to consider.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Considering that ladies also travel, may I know whether Government do not consider it necessary to appoint lady Social Guides also?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The scheme is under consideration.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: A little while ago the Minister said that these Social Guides were all men. Is it not necessary to have women Social Guides so that they may help third class women passengers who need help very badly?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said earlier on in my reply, this experiment has not been a very great success and therefore the idea of recruiting ladies was not considered.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The experiment has not been a success. Let us proceed to the next question.

बड़े बड़े नगरों के लिये अन्तर्भूमि रेलवे

*२१३८. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी: क्या रेल मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इस बात की जांच करने के लिये कि बड़े बड़े नगरों में अन्तर्भूमि

रेलवे बनाया जाना संभव है या नहीं कोई समिति नियुक्त कर दी गई है या की जाने वाली है; यदि ऐसी समिति बनाई जाने वाली है तो उसके कार्य का क्षेत्र क्या होगा ?

(ख) भारत के किन किन नगरों में जांच किये जाने की सम्भावना है;

(ग) क्या अब तक इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कार्य हुआ है; तथा

(घ) योजना के कब तक पूरे होने की आशा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No such committee has been, or is going to be appointed by the Railway Ministry as far as is known at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if it is a fact that a circular railway is being built round about Calcutta and, if it is so, why it is not possible to construct an underground railway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is arguing the matter.

Shri Alagesan: Sir, we do not want to indulge in underground activities just at present.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Is there no scheme with the Government for construction of an underground railway in Calcutta?

Shri Alagesan: Not with the Railway Ministry. The West Bengal Government is having some such proposal.

WAGONS FOR DESPATCH OF JUTE FROM BIHAR

*2139. **Shri. L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the jute dealers of Purnea, Saharsa and Darbhanga Districts of Bihar do not get wagons for despatch of jute to Calcutta according to their needs?

(b) Is it a fact that some representations have been made to Government to sanction wagons for jute on a liberal basis to end the present glut?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Consistent with the wagon availability clearances from this area have been much greater than in the preceding year and therefore no special steps have been considered necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know by what time the entire stock is expected to be cleared?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is rather difficult to say when it will be cleared completely, because the difficulty is not one of providing wagons at these stations but of keeping in line with the quota limitations which are imposed from the port at which they are received.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India had approached the Ministry of Railways for allotment of wagons on a liberal basis, on a representation made by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far we have not had any difficulty in removing jute from those areas. In fact last year there was an increase of 11.5 per cent. of jute removed from those areas.

Shri L. N. Mishra: As regard the procedure followed in the allotment of wagons to the parties, may I know whether it is a fact that complaints of rampant corruption in the matter of allotment have been made to Government?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is only one normal procedure of allotment of wagons and, as I have stated before, the limitations were the quota limitations imposed from Calcutta.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have represented to the Railway Ministry for help in the matter of introduction of terminal tax on jute?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The information is not available.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIGNITE RESOURCES

*2142. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the development of lignite resources in the South Arcot District in the Madras State?

(b) Are Government contemplating to appoint any Commission or any special body to examine the coal position for forming grade and revision of coal prices?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The development of the lignite deposits is being undertaken by the Madras Government. The Government of India have placed at the disposal of the Madras Government, on a loan basis, certain heavy excavating machinery in connection with the working of the lignite Quarrying Scheme.

(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the recommendation made by the Railway Fuel Enquiry Committee *vide* para 74(i) in Chapter IV of the report. This recommendation has not yet been considered by the Government.

Shri K. P. Sinha: What steps have Government taken in regard to part (a)? May I know if any preliminary work has been done in this connection?

Shri Alagesan: The pilot work is being done under the auspices of the Madras Government and it is going on.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know if any foreign technical advice is sought to expedite matters?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, there is one foreign expert in the committee that has been appointed to look into this.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the matter is in the state of preliminary investigation or whether the project is being worked out.

Shri Alagesan: The project is being worked out.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the project is worked out by the Government through any private agency?

Shri Alagesan: It is directly done by the Madras Government.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know what interest the Railway Ministry is taking in the matter?

Shri Alagesan: As I have said they have loaned to them excavating machinery worth several lakhs of rupees. Just now we are not participating financially.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Apart from placing materials at the disposal of the Madras Government, have they been given any financial assistance?