

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 23rd April, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past  
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STAFF CANTEENS ON RAILWAYS

\*1552. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that staff canteens are provided in all Railway work Centres, Loco Sheds etc., and if not, why not;

(b) whether the canteens are run on aids by the Railway Administration; and

(c) whether complaints have been received about the working of these canteens in various places and if so, what improvements have been made in their working?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Staff canteens are provided in all railway establishments coming under the purview of Section 46 of the Factories Act 1948. Canteens are also provided in several other work centres where there are sufficient number of staff and canteens can successfully be run.

(b) Yes. The Railway Administrations provide and maintain the required accommodation on a nominal rental of Re. 1 p.m. Sanitary and electric installations, furniture and cooking utensils are also provided free of charge. The charges on account of service taxes and consumption of electricity and water are also borne by the Railway Administrations wherever necessary.

(c) Complaints of a minor nature are sometimes received from the staff

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either through the medium of Complaints Book, Canteen Committees or direct. These are looked into and suitable action taken.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether it is a fact that several complaints are received, especially from the South Indian Railway about reduction in the quantity of foodstuffs supplied in the canteens?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As I have stated in my answer complaints are received and as they are received, they are disposed of on the merits of each complaint.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether the Loco Sheds come under the purview of the Factories Act since the Act excludes operation of Loco Sheds?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Loco Sheds are also included. Besides, certain other workshops and railway yards are included.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether all the Loco Sheds and all the work centres in India are now getting the benefit of these canteens or whether there are certain places where there are no canteens?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Although all of them cannot be getting the benefit, we are making every possible endeavour to extend the benefits to all of them.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether any private agencies are running canteens?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** No, Sir. All the canteens are being run by the Railway Administration or by co-operatives organised by the workers.

HILL ALLOWANCE

\*1553. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Hill allowance or Jungle allowance is granted to Railwaymen working in Hill and Jungle areas;

(b) if so, whether any distinction is made between those working prior to March 1950 and after;

(c) the reasons for such distinction, if any; and

(b) whether representations have been received in this connection and if so, what action has been taken?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The reply is in the affirmative. These allowances are granted on the same terms and conditions as are applied to other Central Government servants.

(b) and (c). No distinction has been made as a rule. On the Southern Railway, however, where the staff who were already in receipt of higher rates of hill allowances, while working on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway Section of the Southern Railway prior to 1st March 1950, and where the introduction of standardised rates entailed a reduction, the staff who were working from dates prior to 1st March 1950 were allowed, as a special case, to continue to draw higher rates as a personal privilege to them for so long as they continue to work on the Nilgiri Section. In respect of staff employed or transferred to that section on or after 1st March 1950, these rates have been equated to accord with the rates applied to staff of other Ministries.

(d) Some representations, including the hon. Member's, were received and have been replied to in suitable terms.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know on what basis March 1950 is considered to be the date of standardisation and whether conditions before and after 1950 have been taken into consideration?

**Shri Alagesan:** The standardisation rates were introduced on that date. That date was taken to be the date for that purpose.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether, in view of this standardisation, a large number of railwaymen on the South Indian Railway are losing?

**Shri Alagesan:** No, Sir. Those who were already in receipt of higher rates of allowances continue to receive them as a personal privilege. That I have already stated in my answer.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether any sectional railwaymen who were previously receiving higher rates are suffering now due to this standardisation?

**Shri Alagesan:** As long as they continue to work on that particular sec-

tion, they receive the higher rates provided they have been in receipt of these higher rates prior to 1st March 1950.

**Shri Thann Pillai:** May I know how these salaries and wages compare with those of other Government servants in other departments?

**Shri Alagesan:** They have been brought on a level with the other departments.

**Shri Punnoose:** Am I to understand that due to this standardisation, nobody has suffered. Is it clear?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have already repeated several times that those who were already in receipt of these higher rates of allowances, provided they continue to work on that particular section, are even now in receipt of these higher rates of allowances.

**Mr. Speaker:** Prior to a particular date?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes.

#### RAILWAY TICKET CITY BOOKING OFFICES

\*1554. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Ticket City Booking Offices in the Orissa State;

(b) whether they are Government-managed or Private-managed;

(c) if they are private-managed, what is the rate of commission allowed to them;

(d) whether any representations have been received by Government for the enhancement of the rate of commission; and

(e) if so, what is the decision thereon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Two.

(b) One is departmentally run by the Railway and the other is worked by a private contractor.

(c) 2½ per cent. commission on the Eastern Railway share of the fares collected by the sale of tickets.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether Government propose to open more booking offices?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** I did not follow the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether Government propose to open some more centres?