

have advised for it. At that time there was much shortage of food—in 1946—when the orders were placed, and they were not available anywhere here. Import was not possible. Therefore, it was suggested that they should be manufactured here, and it is the result of that suggestion.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether Government took expert opinion before placing these orders, and if so, who are those experts?

Shri Kidwai: Most of the officers who were consulted have by now retired.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that originally the orders were placed with a certain firm in America for the purchase of these ploughs?

Shri Kidwai: That is not correct, because it was not possible at that time, when war was still going on, to import from America.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that this company was not in a position to manufacture the ploughs ordered for?

Shri Kidwai: The Company had, at one stage, expressed its inability but the Government of India was very anxious that somehow they should manufacture. Therefore, they were persuaded to manufacture.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that this company at no stage agreed that it was in a position to manufacture this sort of plough?

Shri Kidwai: I am told they first expressed their inability—they as well as other firms—and then they were persuaded to manufacture them.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the F.A.O. expert was an employee of Messrs. Pashabhai Patel & Co.?

Shri Kidwai: That is what I came to know a few months ago, and therefore we have dispensed with his services.

Shri T. N. Singh: Were the tractors ever tried actually in the field for reclamation purposes after the so-called modifications by this expert?

Shri Kidwai: They are being tried now.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the result?

Shri Kidwai: The result is that some of them are working very well.

Shri Gidwani: And some of them are not working at all.

Shri Kidwai: We do not know about that.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: When that company was not in a position to comply with the request of Government, and was not prepared to do the work, how was the contract entered into?

Shri Kidwai: They were persuaded to accept the contract.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons that necessitated Government's insistence on getting the work done by the firm which had expressed its inability to comply with the request?

Shri Kidwai: The only other firm which was there had also expressed its inability, when it was approached.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: How many lakhs of rupees were wasted in buying implements which are now lying in waste?

Shri Kidwai: I am afraid, if it is scrutinised, it will be found that we have been purchasing many things which we have not been using, not only from this firm, but we have imported something also from the U.S.A. and the U.K., and we find that they cannot be utilised without making certain changes or modifications that are being done in our country.

ATTACK ON HOWRAH-DELHI MAIL

*1014. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it a fact

that on the 14th of November, 1953, the Howrah-Delhi Mail was attacked at Khaga Railway Station and if so, who were the culprits?

(b) Is it a fact that many of the passengers were attacked?

(c) What was the total loss suffered by Government on account of this attack?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. A mob of about 200 students stoned the train.

(b) Seven passengers and three Railway servants viz., the Driver, the first Fireman and the Guard of the train, received minor injuries.

(c) About Rs. 700.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether Government took any steps to find out whether any of these offenders are habitual offenders?

Shri Alagesan: The police have taken action, and arrested nine persons, but we have no information as to whether they were habitual offenders or not.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any of the victims made any representation to Government to any loss of their property or something of that nature?

Shri Alagesan: They sustained minor injuries, and they were treated; and thereafter they proceeded on their journey.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know the number of attacks on passengers in mails and other trains, and the steps that Government have taken to stop them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a general question.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: My first question is in regard to the number of....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question relates only to one train. The hon. Member wants to know generally in the case of all trains. If the hon.

Minister is willing to answer, I have no objection.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: It is a very important question, and no satisfactory answer is given, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question is related to only one incident, and its scope cannot be extended to cover hundred other incidents.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: This is a very important question, and a satisfactory answer is expected of the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may put down a question more comprehensive than this, because in answer to a single question, the hon. Minister cannot be expected to answer other questions.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether some of the students also participated in this attack?

Shri Alagesan: Actually it was a group of about 200 students. It is highly unfortunate that our young men should indulge in such things.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What was the method of attack, and what did they attack with?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): They attacked the trains with stones.

GOLDEN ROCK RAILWAY COLONY

***1015. Shri Veeraswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the house rent has been increased in Golden Rock Railway Colony on the Southern Railway and if so, why?

(b) What were the rates of rent previously and what are the rates of rent fixed now for different types of quarters?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. The assessed rents have been increased as a result of implementation of Government Railways' Rent