

Janta Express will be a regular feature or it was done only by way of experiment; and

(b) whether it is contemplated to attach *Annapoorna* cars to trains which normally have dining cars attached to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) This is only an experiment.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the experiment proved a failure or a success?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That will be a matter of opinion.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह तजुर्बा किन किन लाइन्स पर किया जा रहा है ? क्या एक ही लाइन पर किया जा रहा है या और भी कहीं किया जा रहा है ?

श्री अलमेशन : एक ही लाइन पर अभी किया जा रहा है ।

Shri Nanadas: May I know the number of *Annapoorna* dining cars that are available in the Indian Railways?

Shri Alagesan: Only one was built and it is being used now.

RESEARCH ON RICE FUNGUS DISEASE

*34. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale field research in rice-growing areas in India on the problem of controlling fungus diseases is now being conducted by a British firm;

(b) if so, whether this firm has submitted any report; and

(c) whether statistics are available regarding the loss to crops every year due to these diseases?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes; the experiments are being conducted at a number of centres in India including the Cen-

tral Rice Research Institute, at the instance of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

(b) The experiments are in progress. The firm has not submitted any report so far.

(c) The disease appears every year in a mild form except that in 1918 in the delta of Godavari and Kistna and in 1942-43 in Bengal almost total destruction of crop was caused by the disease.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know how many teams are engaged just at present in various centres for this research?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I want notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What are the centres, except the one mentioned just now, which have been selected for this purpose?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice for that also because this is done by a private firm and we have allowed it only as regards the Rice Research Institute. As regards the others I have no information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any Indians have been sent to London and whether they are studying this crop protection work?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any Government expense is involved in this?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any team is engaged in East and West Godavari Districts in order to combat this fungus?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not in the delta itself; the research is done elsewhere.

TELEGRAPH CENTENARY EXHIBITION

*35. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a special telegraph service called "Send your

own Greeting Message Service" has been introduced during the Telegraph Centenary Exhibition?

(b) If so, what was the average number of visitors who availed themselves of this opportunity every day and what was the number of messages transmitted every day?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, from 1st November 1953.

(b) About 3,000 visitors a day came to see the Exhibition and only 158 messages a day on an average were booked at this concessional rate.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether these messages are restricted to Delhi and New Delhi only or whether they can be sent to other stations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are only for Delhi and New Delhi, not for other stations.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How long is this service to continue?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Up to the end of the Exhibition, that is, the 30th of November, provisionally.

STOPPAGE OF TEA SALE ON PLATFORMS AFTER MIDNIGHT

*36. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vendors have been prohibited to sell tea between midnight and 4 A.M. at railway platforms; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) At small stations the vending and catering contractors are not permitted to sell any articles, including tea, during the hours of 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. At big stations and Junctions, light refreshments, including tea, are permitted to be sold during these hours at the stall only, but not on the platforms or on trains.

(b) These restrictions have been imposed in order to prevent inconvenience to passengers who wish to

have a night's rest while travelling in trains.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that a great number of passengers, particularly those who have to travel by third class, have to keep themselves awake to look after their luggage or to get down at intermediate stations, may I know what alternative arrangement has been made for them?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: This question was taken up at the first meeting of the National Railway Users Consultative Committee and it was proposed by the majority of members that this ban on sale should be removed, and the proposal has been acceded to by the Ministry.

Shri Heda: Can the hon. Parliamentary Secretary give us an idea of the percentage of passengers that can sleep?

Shri E. K. Chaudhuri: Is Government aware that this order has caused great hardship to third class passengers who are unable to get down and go to the stall for their refreshment, because if they do so they lose their seats?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Hawking at night is really awkward. You will excuse me, Sir, if I say that it is a crude way of doing things. But as the Parliamentary Secretary said just now, this matter was raised in the National Railway Users Council, and we have now agreed to the sale of cold and hot drinks at night.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Before this was done, was any attempt made to find out whether the majority of passengers were in favour of it or against it?

Mr. Speaker: I think I will go to the next question.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*37. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Mission which had gone to Japan to make a