

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** None whatsoever.

**Shri N. L. Joshi:** What is the annual requirement of wagons in the area and how much does the supply fall short of the demand?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** I shall require notice for that. But I should like to state here that all the traffic that goes to Indore is by metre-gauge, and between Ujjain and Ratlam there is a break of gauge and sometimes congestion of traffic takes place.

#### MADRAS REFRESHMENT ROOMS

\*1564. **Shri Balasubramaniam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government charge a nominal rent of Re. 1 for the accommodation provided to Messrs. Spencer & Company, at Madurai Junction, Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, how do Government justify charging Rs. 300/- a month from the Non-Vegetarian Refreshment Room at the same place?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) Yes. Re. 1 per month.

(b) The licence fee of Rs. 300/- per month was fixed on the basis of offers received for running this Refreshment Room, and was voluntarily accepted by the present contractor.

A nominal licence fee is charged for Restaurants as the financial outlay on capital equipment, staff and machinery for supervision for this service is considerable, while the sales are very limited.

**Shri Kakkan:** May I know the reasons for charging only this nominal fee?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** I have just stated the reasons.

**Shri Balakrishnan:** May I know in how many places Spencers are running refreshment rooms and whether

a rent of one rupee is charged for each of the refreshment rooms?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Spencers have got forty-four restaurants on the Southern Railway, and the charges are one rupee per restaurant.

**Shri Balakrishnan:** May I know the reason why, when the other refreshment room run by the other person is paying Rs. 300, Government is losing such a huge amount on rent?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** As I have just stated, the clientele of western style restaurants has declined very much and the margin of profit that is left to them is very small, whereas the margin of profit of Indian refreshment rooms is comparatively very much more. The assessment is made on the actual profits made.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The Parliamentary Secretary, in reply to part (b) of the question said that this charge was fixed on the basis of the existing rules. May I know what was the basis of fixing one rupee per month for accommodation given to Messrs. Spencer & Co. at Madurai?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** In 1950, a special committee of officers was appointed to recommend ways and means by which western style of catering could be maintained at a high level. That Committee recommended that the rates that should be charged from them for hire of rooms, etc., should be nominal. It is in accordance with the recommendations of that committee that this rate was fixed.

#### DIVA-DASGAON LINE

\*1565. **Shri M. D. Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how far the Diva-Dasgaon Railway survey has progressed?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** Field work on the survey is in progress, and the