

KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY STATIONS

*821. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that printed tickets for different stations on the Kangra Valley Railway Section of the Northern Railway are not available and that chits are issued to passengers travelling to these stations?

(b) Is it a fact that this practice is causing a lot of hardship to the passengers and they are being harassed?

(c) From what period have these printed tickets been out of stock?

(d) By what time will these be printed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a), (c) and (d). During December 1953 and January 1954 printed tickets ran out of stock, necessitating the issue of blank paper tickets, at 5 stations on the Kangra Valley section. The position has since been rectified at three stations and printed tickets will be made available very shortly at the remaining two stations.

(b) There may have been some inconvenience but there was no harassment.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know, Sir, why tickets have not been printed for such a long time?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): There was some mistake on the part of the staff concerned and an inquiry is being made. Instructions have been issued to the staff to be more careful in placing indents in time, and to the press to be more prompt in the supply of these tickets.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know when the indents were placed in this case?

Shri L. B. Shastri: They were late in placing the indents and, therefore, an inquiry will be held. Perhaps the Station Master will have to be taken to task.

Shri Raghavachari: The Minister has stated that there has been some

delay. What is the exact amount of delay?

Mr. Speaker: What was the period of delay?

Shri L. B. Shastri: In some cases, it has taken more than four months.

FRUIT CANNING INDUSTRY

*822. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 237 on the 30th November, 1953 and state how long it will take to start the fruit canning industry?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Canning of fruits on experimental basis has been started in Tripura from the middle of December, 1953.

Shri Biren Dutt: May I know whether it is a fact that about 5 lakhs of pine-apples were wasted last year and no steps were taken for their preservation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as I know, the hon. Member's statement about the wastage is probably a fact and we were aware of it. Hence, the Planning Commission decided to pay more attention to horticultural development, in the Plan. We are trying to open one centre, which is included in the Five Year Plan of the State.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the canning industry in India, as a whole, is not making the necessary progress?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are many handicaps from which the canning industry suffers, which they have brought to the notice of the Government. The matter is under consideration. They want cheap tin, they want cheap sugar and they want certain concessions on the railway.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): People should encourage canned food.

Shri Barman: Will it be a Government industry or a private industry working in Tripura?