

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There have been a few complaints of this nature.

(b) The complaints are promptly investigated, and staff found guilty of slackness and malpractice are suitably dealt with.

Shri Vallatharas: Is there any arrangement in vogue to effect surprise checking of cash in the custody of the booking clerks while on duty?

Shri Alagesan: Such surprise checks are made.

Shri Vallatharas: Have there been cases in which excess money has been found in the possession of these booking clerks?

Shri Alagesan: There were certain cases in which staff guilty of such practices were found out and also punished.

Shri Vallatharas: May I know the number of such cases taken cognizance of and punished?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the number, Sir.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, the percentage of booking clerks involved to the total number of booking clerks in the employ of the Railways?

Mr. Speaker: It is very difficult to answer such a question.

TRANSPORT OF ORANGES

*832. **Shri Debeswar Sarmah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for speedy transport and marketing of oranges from the Khasi and Lushai Hills (Assam)?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Air lifting of oranges from Shella to Calcutta has been arranged during the current fruit season.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: What about Lushai Hills? Shella is in Khasi Hills; I also want to know about Lushai Hills.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is all the information I have; it is only between Shella and Calcutta.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: Is there any long-range plan for economic utilization of oranges in these Hills contemplated or taken on hand, and if so, what is it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I must ask for notice.

Shrimati Khongmen: What is the total amount of oranges that have been air-lifted from the districts of Khasi Hills in this season as compared to those of last year and year before?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures for the last two years but during the year 1953-54, the air lift started on 6th December 1953 and was in operation till the 14th January 1954. There were seventeen plane-loads of oranges lifted and they weighed 1442 maunds.

रेलवे की भूमि

*८३३. श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि रेलों के भिन्न भिन्न खण्डों में रेलवे लाइनों के पास स्थित कितनी भूमि है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Information regarding the total acreage of railway land zone-wise is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course. It is presumed, that the hon. Member is referring to land on either side of the railway lines between stations.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि रेलवे लाइन के बगल वाली जमीन उन किसानों को दी जायगी जिनकी पहले थी ।

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : इन जमीनों को हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के सिपुर्द कर देते हैं और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट जिन्हें मुनासिब समझती है देती है ।