

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : जब कि दूसरी रेलवे कम्पनियों को गवर्नमेंट अपने हाथों में ले रही है तो ऐसी हालत में क्या सरकार बलिया डिस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्ड के पास जो प्लान आई है उसको खुद अपनी तरफ से बनायेगी या डिस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्ड बलिया को अनुमति देगी कि वह बनाये ?

श्री अलगहान : अपनी तरफ से नहीं बना सकता । (Interruptions.)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They may understand as much Hindi as he is able to speak. (Interruptions). He has given the answer. I have heard it. His pronunciation may not be good, but it is being developed. (Interruptions.)

Sardar A. S. Saigal: It would be better if he spoke in English.

شکشا و پراکرتک سلسلہ میں تنہا

ویگھانک انسداد ہان مذمتی (مولانا آزاد):

جب تک پارلیامنٹ میں انگلش چلائی جا رہی ہے مینسٹر کو اس کا موقع ہونا چاہیے کہ اگر وہ چاہے تو انگلش ہی میں جواب دے۔

[The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Maulana Azad): The Minister should be given an opportunity to reply in English as long as English continues to be used in Parliament.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I would urge upon hon. Members is this. This time is a very valuable time for non-officials. The first hour of the day is a non-official hour, when the Ministers are 'under fire', under cross-examination and information is elicited. We come here for the purpose of eliciting answers. It is not for the purpose of knowing whether a particular Minister knows Hindi or not. Of course, if during the course of 15 years he is not able to answer, that is another matter.

CATERING ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

*1330. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the Southern Railways, catering is managed departmentally while on the other Railways contract system is prevailing; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not changing over to the contract system on the Southern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Departmental catering is undertaken to a limited extent on the Eastern and Southern Railways. On other Railways, however, all catering is carried out through contractors.

(b) The question of departmental catering versus contract system is at present under examination by the Committee on Catering headed by me, and further action will be taken in the light of the result of this examination.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Have any complaints been received against this catering system?

Shri Alagesan: Catering by private contractors?

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: No, departmental catering.

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. On the other hand, departmental catering is very much appreciated; it is superior and much higher.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the system of departmental catering is running economically?

Shri Alagesan: Unfortunately, it is not so. We are incurring losses in departmental catering, both on the Eastern and Southern Railways.

Shri B. S. Murthy: If before the report of the Committee under the presidency of the Deputy Minister is ready, any contract has to be terminated, may I know what steps Government

are going to take—whether they will continue the contract or take over the management and run it departmentally?

Shri Alagesan: The whole question of catering is under consideration. We are not going into individual contracts.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question was this. Suppose before the deliberations of the Committee are over, a certain contract lapses, what steps Government are going to take? Are they going to continue the contract or is it going to be managed departmentally?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): It is rather early. I think the hon. Member might wait for a month or more and then he will be able to know what steps we will take.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether catering by private contractors is more economical or more efficient than departmental catering? Otherwise, what is the reason why it is being sought to be changed?

Shri Alagesan: Departmental catering is not economical. It has not been economical so far. But it has been efficient no doubt.

Shri Nanadas: In view of the fact that catering by the department is very cheap and also satisfactory, may I know whether the Government are going to extend this system to other regions also?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member's premises are wrong. I said we are incurring losses in departmental catering.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will stop 'departmental catering' at this stage because there is an inquiry going on.

Shri Radhokal Vyas: What is the percentage of loss for the whole year?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We cannot tell the percentage. It perhaps comes to about Rs. 20 to 22 lakhs.

Shri Radha Raman rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is an enquiry going on.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am very sorry, Sir. The figure I gave was not correct. It is only Rs. 8 lakhs.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION,
KARJAT

*1331. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Research Station at Karjat, Kolaba District in the Bombay State has evolved new and improved varieties of paddy; and

(b) if so, in what respects the improvement has been achieved?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The improvement has been in respect to yield and quality of grain.

Shri Gidwani: What is the percentage of increase in yield?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It differs from variety to variety. The maximum yield obtained was with respect to K42, 2,800 lbs. There are some which have yielded 1,900 and 2,300 lbs. and so on.

Shri Gidwani: What is the ratio of the increase in expenses to the increase in the yield?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I have not got these figures.

INDIAN AIR LINES CORPORATION

*1332. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of the Indian Air Lines Corporation in the first four months after its formation has resulted in a gain or loss;

(b) the extent of loss or gain upto date;