

(b) 54 berths in each sleeper car on the B.G. and 48 on the M.G.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Ministry has drawn up any plan for extending the number of sleeping berths to passenger trains also?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. The idea is to extend the scheme of providing sleeping accommodation in the third class. First, long distance through trains will have to be taken and then only the passenger trains.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if these Janata trains are spread equitably over all parts of India?

Shri Alagesan: Yes; subject to correction, I think, we are running about 19 Janata trains now on all routes. We have introduced these sleeping berths in the Janata trains running from Delhi to Bombay and from Delhi to Madras.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the inconvenience caused to passengers using these three-tier sleeping berths on account of the fact that the topmost berth gives very little space for moving about or even to sit up and has the attention of the Railway Ministry been drawn to the remarks of the Governor of Madras in this respect?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir; if I may say so, the upper berth is a little inconvenient. But, we had to introduce sleeping accommodation without loss of time and so these carriages have been used; but, special carriages are under construction.

I may also draw the attention of the House to the very favourable comments that have been appearing in the Press and the wide appreciation that this has received at the hands of the public.

Short Notice Question and Answer

STRIKE AT CALCUTTA PORT

S.N.Q. No. 4 Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately seven thousand labourers of

Calcutta Port have struck work, as a result of which about eighty ships are lying idle; and

(b) if so, the causes of the strike?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. Approximately 3,000 Cargo Dock Workers, other than the monthly paid and those employed on the Coal Docks, stopped work from the 27th November, after a period of "go-slow" from the 12th November. The latest position is that out of 68 ships in port, 2 are unable to work ashore.

(b) The men adopted 'go-slow' method over certain demands while negotiations with the Port Commission were still in progress. The authorities have expressed their readiness to resume negotiations over the demands provided normal work is restored.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether it is a fact that this strike was only a token strike and that too only for a day, and thereafter the workers were not allowed by the authorities to join their work?

Shri Alagesan: The position as stated by the hon. Member is not correct. The workers adopted "go-slow" tactics from the 12th of November to the 27th of November—for more than a fortnight—and that was very unfortunate. After that they stopped work. There was no question of their being prevented from work by the Port Commissioner.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether it is a fact that the alleged "go-slow" work by the workers is nothing but the minimum work that has been prescribed under the contract between the workers and the port authorities, and if so, how it is charged that there has been "go-slow" work?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I have not followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: The point is: it is not that the workers were going slow. They were doing work according to

the contract between them and the port authorities. What they refused was the excess of work which was expected of them. Is that correct?

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Sir, I will explain the matter. As long as six years back a contract was entered into between the authorities and the workers that a certain minimum is bound to be done by the workers.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I said.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: The workers were doing exactly that amount of work according to the contract. So, I would like to know how it is charged that they adopted "go-slow" tactics?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the position is not as the hon. Member has put it. There were certain demands regarding the filling in of vacancies on the primary gang. All these years they were working much more than the minimum prescribed. Their minimum wage has been guaranteed and that is Rs. 87-8-0 per mensem. From this normal practice they departed and began going slow.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know under what circumstances the Civil Pioneer Force of the Bengal Government were called in to do this work? Was it on account of a request by the port authorities or was it due to the direct intervention of the Bengal Government?

Shri Alagesan: Naturally, the House would not like the Calcutta Port to be paralysed and we are thankful to the Bengal Government for having co-operated with us and providing this Civil Pioneer Force.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I am asking as to who made the request.

Mr. Speaker: They did it on their own.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether it is a fact that the port authorities have forced the gang workers in the dock to carry more than 2 maunds of load?

Shri Alagesan: They were carrying; it is not a question of their being forced by the port authorities. While the negotiations on certain demands were going on, the workers suddenly said that they would not carry head-loads exceeding 1½ maunds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

संयुक्त राष्ट्र अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाल आपात निधि से प्राप्त सहायता

*८०९. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी . क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री सभा पटल पर एक ऐसा विवरण रखने की कृपा करेंगी जिसमें निम्न-लिखित बातें दी गई हों :

(क) संयुक्त राष्ट्र अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाल आपात निधि की प्रबन्ध परिषद् से भारत को एशिया के १४ राष्ट्रों की जांच तथा बाल कल्याण सेवाओं के लिये अलग रखी गई राशि में से कितना धन प्राप्त हुआ है ;

(ख) इस योजना के अधीन किस प्रकार का काम किया जा रहा है ;

(ग) किन-किन स्थानों पर इस प्रकार का काम किया जा रहा है ; और

(घ) इस योजना के अन्तर्गत भा त क कितने बच्चों को लाभ पहुंचाने की सम्भावना है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (d). No sum was allocated by UNICEF for investigation. A statement giving the required information in regard to the allocations made by the United Nations Children's Fund to India for maternity and Child Welfare Services is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 8.]

TOURISTS VISITING INDIA

*812. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of tourists from U.K. who visited India from January, 1954 to the 30th September, 1954?