

**Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** May I know if the Government gives any special allowance to village postmen who have to be all the time walking in rural areas?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Their salary is fixed on that basis and we also employ a large number of agents who carry the mail and to other duties.

**Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Are they given any transport allowance or provided with cycle?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not think that postmen are allowed any transport allowance.

#### GLIDING SCHOOL

\*1182. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any Gliding School in the near future; and

(b) the number of Gliding Schools, private and Government owned, if any, at present functioning in India?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Two new Gliding Centres are proposed to be started in the near future, one at Allahabad and another at Bangalore.

(b) Two—one private in New Delhi and one Government owned in Poona.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether in view of the growing desire of the people to learn gliding, what attempts are being made by Government to encourage not only to open Government schools but also to encourage private Gliding schools.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have set up a special wing in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and appointed a Gliding Adviser to the Director General of Civil Aviation. He is trying to give a fillip to the gliding activities in the country. Apart from that the charges for a launch have been reduced to Re. 1 per launch

both at Poona Gliding Centre and Delhi Gliding Club with a view to encourage gliding.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** There is only one private Gliding Centre as the hon. Minister said. May I know whether any grant, aid or some other help is being given to this School and do Government propose to open more of such clubs?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is rather hypothetical. If attempts are made in any centre to start a Gliding Club, we shall consider the request on merits.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Do Government realise the importance of gliding clubs as a ground force for the Air Force in as much as our neighbouring and divided State has got more gliding clubs than we have and that Germany after being demilitarised had 700 gliding clubs?

**Mr. Speaker:** He may put the question without giving any information.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Although opinions of experts differ on the point whether gliding is really an aid for learning flying or not, even then we give due recognition to the fact that gliding should be encouraged in the country even as a sport.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** May I know, Sir.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

#### AMRITSAR-LAHORE RAIL LINK

\*1187. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have travelled up to the 30th November, 1954 in the train running between Amritsar and Lahore and *vice versa*;

(b) the nature of facilities provided to the passengers on this line; and

(c) the income from and the expenditure on this line up to that date?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) From 28th October, 1954 to 30th November, 1954 8,239½ persons travelled from India to Pakistan and 10,360 from Pakistan to India.

(b) The usual facilities are available to passengers on this line.

(c) The income and expenditure pertaining to the passenger service up to 30th November, 1954 are as under:—

*Income.* . . . . . **Rs. 9,512.**

*Expenditure—*

Recurring. . . . . **Rs. 3,035**

Non-recurring. . . . . **Rs. 18,290.**

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether arrangements are made to issue through-tickets to and fro for these trains?

**Shri Alagesan:** I think that now,—I am saying subject to correction—we issue tickets up to our part and they also do so.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know whether Government has succeeded in making arrangements for through-trains from India to Pakistan, and if so, what is the latest position?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes; I think that question will be considered at a conference that will be convened in the near future.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether it is a fact that the customs checking at both ends of this line is more in the nature of harassment to the passengers than to check smuggling? Has it come to the knowledge of the Government?

**Shri Alagesan:** Of course, customs examination has to take place and it may cause inconvenience if not harassment to the public. But, that has to be put up with.

PURCHASE OF STORES BY C. T. O.

**\*1190. Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism of the Estimates Committee on the purchase system of the stores and spare parts by the Central Organisation; and

(b) whether Government have enquired into the circumstances in which indiscriminate and haphazard purchases of stores and spares were made?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The various recommendations on the working of the Central Tractor Organisation made by the Estimates Committee in its 7th Report are still under examination. It is hoped to obtain orders of Government on them within the next few weeks.

**Shri Morarka:** May I know what is the total value of such stores purchased in this fashion as has been objected to by the Estimates Committee?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The question asked is about the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. If the hon. Member wants the total value, I am prepared to give it if sufficient notice is given.

**Shri Morarka:** The question related to the haphazard and indiscriminate purchase of stores by the Central Tractor Organisation. I want to know the total value of such stores.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I am prepared to give that later on.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants notice; he has not got that figure with him just now.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Regarding this haphazard purchase of stores I want to know whether the responsibility has been pinned on any officer and whether action has been taken in this connection?