

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will look into it. First of all let me satisfy myself that there is a mutilation.

Next question.

MONTHLY TICKETS

*977. **Sbri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that daily passengers coming from the suburbs of Delhi to attend to their duties in different offices in Delhi are charged 24 single fares for monthly tickets while such passengers in Calcutta and Bombay Zones are charged only 12 single fares?

(b) What are the reasons for such discrimination?

(c) Has any representation on behalf of the passengers been received and considered?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Sbri Shahnawas Khan): (a) Charges for monthly tickets issued in the Delhi area are calculated at 24 single journey mail fares whereas charges for monthly suburban season tickets in the Calcutta, Bombay and Madras areas are calculated on lower bases which vary according to the three zones in the light of local conditions but not at 12 single journey fares.

(b) Delhi is not comparable to the large cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras where very large number of persons come daily for work or business from their homes in suburbs.

(c) Yes.

Sbri S. N. Das: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know what are the special conditions prevailing in the Calcutta and Bombay Zones?

Sbri Shahnawas Khan: Calcutta, Bombay and Madras are very big metropolitan cities and Delhi cannot be compared with any of those cities.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Passenger traffic has not yet so much increased in Delhi. That is what he means.

Sbri S. N. Das: In view of the great disparity between the fares charged from passengers in the suburbs of Delhi and those in the suburbs of Calcutta and Bombay, may I know whether Government is going to consider and review the present rates?

Sbri Shahnawas Khan: The very low rate of fares in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras is very uneconomical and it is a legacy of the past

which the Government do not intend to follow.

Sbri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the Government intends to introduce a uniform policy with regard to the grant of season tickets?

Sbri Shahnawas Khan: There is a uniform policy already with the exception of these three cities.

Sbri Nambiar: In view of the fact that the employees working in the various offices in Delhi should also have the benefit of these concessional fares, may I know whether the same sort of concessions as are obtaining in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta will be extended to Delhi also?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Sbri Alagesan): Sir, it has been replied to in the negative already.

Sbri Nambiar: Why? What is the particular reason? When the employees are getting the same sort of pay, the same privileges may be extended to them also. Why is it denied in Delhi?

Sbri Alagesan: Sir, I think it has been sufficiently answered. These low charges at the three big cities have been deliberately fixed with a view to developing the suburban areas and encouraging large bodies of city workers to live in the suburbs. The same conditions do not apply to other cities. In fact there has been a demand for these low charges in Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Tiruchirappalli etc. But we are not in a position to accept it.

Sbri Nambiar: In view of the great shortage of houses in Delhi.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no good developing this into an argument.

COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND

*978. **Sbri N. P. Saha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many houses have been built in the year 1951-52 in the coal fields in India out of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund?

(b) What amount as subsidies has been paid by the Government of India to the colliery owners in the year 1951-52?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Sbri Abid Ali): (a) 334.

(b) No payment has been made, as no claim for the payment of subsidy has so far been received from colliery owners.