

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) From 1st April 1955, existing First Class on the suburban services in Bombay will be replaced by the new First Class which will correspond to existing Second Class.

Shri Gidwani: Would there be only two classes—First class and third class or three classes?

Shri Alagesan: The first class and third class as before. The new first class will be the existing second class.

Shri Gidwani: Why not have three classes as on other railways? At present there are two classes—first class and second class. The present first class is going to be converted into second class and there will again be two classes. Therefore, I am asking whether there will not be three classes as on other railways or only two classes as before?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): We do not propose to increase the number of classes. There have been two classes on the suburban services and we do not propose to add to them.

Shri Gidwani: What are the reasons?

Shri L. B. Shastri: After all, the House has generally approved of the idea of having only two classes. The hon. Member may be aware that I mentioned this matter in this House as well as in the other House and it was generally approved that we should reduce the number of classes. On the suburban service in Bombay, the fare is being reduced—that is the present first class fare is being reduced as the first class is being converted into second class. I do not think there is any need to add a new class as suggested by the hon. Member.

INDO-JAPANESE AIR AGREEMENT

*1671. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given

to starred question No. 947 on the 14th March, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the negotiations for an Indo-Japanese Air Agreement have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Negotiations are in the final stages. It would be premature to give at this stage any details of the Agreement.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know when the negotiations are likely to be completed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Very shortly.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government can give us an idea as to whether it will be a weekly service or a fortnightly service?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We shall not be able to say that also at the present stage.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the service that is at present being operated between India and Hongkong will be extended to Japan or a new service will be started

Shri Raj Bahadur: It can be presumed that it will be extended. When our agreement with China is also finalised, we may have one service linking Hongkong and other stations in China.

Shri G. P. Sinha: With how many countries are we having negotiations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are having talks with Iraq; we are in correspondence with regard to China. That is all apart from Japan with whom our negotiations are nearing an end.

INDO-PAKISTAN RAIL TRAFFIC

*1672. **Shri Brohmo-Choudhury:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in response to the request by the Chief

Minister of West Bengal, on the question of running Indian trains from Calcutta to Assam through East Pakistan, the Pakistan Communications Minister has expressed his desire to restore easier means of travel between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take up this matter with the Pakistan Government at an early date?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether our Government have asked the Government of Pakistan to restore the lines which have been removed between West Bengal and Assam in the territory of Eastern Pakistan?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): That question will arise later, when the preliminary discussions had taken place and we have arrived at some settlement. Then alone can we ask them to restore that line.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if any talks had been held by our Ministry with their counter-parts in Pakistan in this regard or is the proposal only in the stage of a request made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Some correspondence had been exchanged between the Chief Minister of West Bengal and Dr. Khan Sahib, the Minister of Communications in Pakistan. Dr. Roy has passed on that correspondence to us and we are considering that matter.

STAFF OF T. B. SANATORIA

*1673. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any safeguards have been provided for the employees working in the T.B. Sanatorium at Kasauli who are exposed to infection; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 34].

Dr. Satyawadi: May I know the number of cases of T.B. among the employees during the last five years and the amount spent in the treatment of these cases?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: In that particular sanatorium, there were only two workers who were attacked by T.B. and there were no casualties. I am not able to give the expenditure just now.

Dr. Satyawadi: May I know if the facilities provided will also be extended to the members of the family of such employees?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

RAILWAY SERVICE COMMISSIONS

*1674. **Shri Amar Singh Damar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no representative of Advisors in the Railway Board as also in the Railway Service Commissions; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Absence of suitable persons from among Adivasis who could be considered for these appointments.

श्री अमर सिंह डामर: रेलवे बोर्ड्स और रेलवे सर्विस कमीशन में मध्य भारत के कितने गैर-सरकारी सदस्य हैं ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री): यह तो रेलवे सर्विस कमीशंस के बारे में आपने सवाल पूछा है।