

to the conclusion that it should be undertaken there if and when such manufacture becomes an economic proposition. In the mean time, it is proposed to set up an overhaul line for helicopters in the Hindustan Factory.

Government have received an application from a private company for a licence under the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act, 1951, for the manufacture of helicopters. It is still under consideration.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know the name of the company which has applied for this permission?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Messrs. Aeronautical Services Limited of Calcutta.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know whether Government consider helicopters useful in these days of severe floods and locust swarms?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes. At present, however, helicopters can be put only to a limited use so far as our country is concerned, e.g. for pest control and other agricultural purposes, for search and rescue other similar things. They have not been found to be economical so far as air transport is concerned.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know what makes the Government delay in permitting the company to manufacture helicopters?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member would remember the policy resolution of 1948 according to which the manufacture of aircraft has to be undertaken by the State exclusively, unless the State itself thinks that such manufacture can be entrusted to private enterprise.

Shri K. P. Tripathy: May I know if it is a fact that the British Government recently have ordered six helicopters for the purpose of passenger traffic particularly with two engines? If so, are Government thinking of introducing the same for transporting passengers and mails to hill stations where there are no railways?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have examined it and found that it is not economical so far as transport by helicopters is concerned.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have Government gone into the whole question of helicopters, especially in view of the fact that helicopter manufacturers in England have said that the use of helicopters cannot be economical unless two engines are fitted, and secondly, the noise is very much diminished, and thirdly, its speed is trebled?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hon. Member seems to be well informed about this proposition so far as helicopters are concerned. But so far as our country is concerned, we have examined it, and as I have already said, the Hindustan Aircraft Limited are considering the proposal for starting the manufacture of Helicopters. For the present they have also decided to open up arrangements for overhauling helicopters.

Assam Rail Link

*1237. **Shri Bimalaprosad Chelihat:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the date by which the Railway communication to Assam is expected to be restored?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The rail link to Assam was breached in the recent July Floods at 7 places. Through communication has been restored at all but one place which is expected to be repaired by the middle of October.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In view of the fact that this line is breached every year, Government were thinking of having a diversion line, so that these breaches might be avoided. Has the plan for the diversion line been completed so that it might be taken up next winter?

Shri Alagesan: There was a section of the Assam link which was found to be most affected by floods. We are considering the question of having an alternate railway line for that specified portion. A survey is going on.

Catering

*1238. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestion made by him in his last Budget speech, namely that non-official should be associated in the matter of inspecting catering establishments on Railways with a view to ensuring proper quality and service has since been given effect to; and

(b) if so, on which Railway Zone this proposal has been implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, on Western, Eastern and Northern Railways.

On other railways it is under active consideration.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Members of Parliament have been associated with these committees?

Shri Alagesan: In these railways, the members of the regional and zonal committees have been associated. On the Eastern Railway, the members of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee have been associated with this work of inspecting the establishments; this Committee consists of Members of Parliament too.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Government have received any complaints regarding the bad quality of meals, especially vegetarian meals, served by these catering establishments?

Shri Alagesan: At what place?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it on any particular line or on all the lines?

Shri Dabhi: On the Western Railway.

Shri Alagesan: There have been complaints not only with regard to vegetarian meals, but with regard to non-vegetarian meals also. But I cannot say off hand whether they relate to a particular contractor or a particular station.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह कृपा कर के बतलायेंगे कि रीजनेस और जोनल रेलवे यूजर्स कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी जो बनाई जाती है वह, किस उम्र पर बनाई जाती है ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : वह तो नियम बिलकुल सब छपे हुए हैं, अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो वह उन छपे हुए नियमों को देख सकते हैं और मैं उन्हें दे भी सकता हूँ।

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is not a fact that the questioner himself had given a written complaint to the hon. Minister regarding service of bad quality of food?

Shri Alagesan: It might be so. But I do not think the question related to that. I know he is a very active Member. He has been giving complaints.

Shrimati Anamu Swaminadhan : May I know if on the Southern Railway, they are not having such an inspection by a non-official committee? If they are going to have such an inspect in committee, are they putting any women on the committee?

Shri Alagesan: I said in my answer that the matter is under active consideration on other railways, of which the Sou-

thern Railway is one, I should like women to be associated with this and I shall convey this to the zonal committee members of the Southern Railway.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I might go beyond what the Deputy Minister has said, I will suggest to the Southern Railway that lady members only should be put on this work.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know how often the medical officers of the railway inspect the cleaning of the vessels and servicing?

Shri Alagesan: The medical staff as well as the supervisory staff have been enjoined to inspect these establishments without fail and take stringent action whenever there is any lapse.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know since the association of non-officials in the matter of inspecting catering establishments whether Government have got any information about improvement or do these continue in the same way?

Shri Alagesan: It is very difficult to answer such a question. Naturally, when non-officials are associated and the whole inspection is being reinforced in this way, certainly, we expect things to improve.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : माननीय मंत्री ने कुछ दिन हुए ऐसी घोषणा की थी कि खाद्यान्नों के मस्ते होने के कारण रेलवे में भोजन की दरों में कमी की जायगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह घोषणा कब कार्यान्वित की जायगी और रेलवे में कब से ठीक और सस्ता भोजन मिलन लगगा?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : माननीय सदस्य को यह मालूम होगा कि रिफ्रेशमेंट रुम्स में ग्राज जो खाना मिलता है उसकी कीमत काफी कम कर दी गई है। १२ ग्रा० और १४ ग्रा० कीमत उसकी रखी गई है और फूड का भी स्टैंडर्ड मुकर्रर किया गया है। लेकिन इस वक्त हम तमाम चीजों पर फिर से विचार कर रहे हैं और शायद बहुत जल्दी हम नये कदम लेंगे जिससे खाना भी अच्छा हो जायेगा और कीमत भी कम हो जायेगी।

सरदार ए० एल० लहगल : क्या यह सच है कि बहुत से कंट्रेक्टमें ग्राज सेटल्स

रेलवे में हैं जिनके खिलाफ बहुत सी शिकायतें पेश की गई हैं और उसके बाद भी वह लोग आज तक कंटेक्टर्स हैं ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : माननीय मेम्बर की शिकायतों का खयाल मुझे नहीं है । लेकिन अगर यह शिकायतें आपके इलाके में होती हैं तो आपकी भी तो उस के रोकने में कुछ मदद करनी चाहिये ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : मैं आप को नाम बता सकता हूँ । झांसी स्टेशन की शिकायतें काफी घर्से से पड़ी हैं तथा कई लोगों के बारे में हैं, लेकिन कोई कार्यवाही तहीं की गई ।

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order; the hon. Member says:

आप के पास, मेरे पास कहाँ ?

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : आप के पास नहीं, मिनिस्ट्री के पास है ।

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members are always expected to address the Chair. Therefore आपके पास में, तो मेरे पास में कैसे ?

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether Government is aware that in view of the fact that one company is given the monopoly of catering throughout the major portion, if not the whole of the railways in India, the care taken regarding catering of meals and other refreshments is comparatively less good than if catering is done through Annapurna and other services ? May I also know whether the Government propose to take over the whole of catering and give up these contracts ?

Shri Alagesan: We are very much aware of the evils of monopoly and large holding. Now the policy is to minimise the areas of these caterers and make them more compact and more capable of giving good service.

Coaches

*1239. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of III class coaches on the Northern Railway that have been fitted with fans so far; and

(b) the percentage of such coaches to the total number of III class coaches in that Zone ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 809.

(b) 44% ✓

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know by what time all the coaches employed in the Northern Railway will be fitted with fans ?

Shri Alagesan : It was decided that all the new third class coaches should be provided with fans and also all coaches under 20 years of age should be provided with fans, and all womens' compartments without reference to age, should also be provided with fans. As per this criterion, 80 per cent of the compartments have been fitted with fans. Only coaches which are over 20 years of age have been left out.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that most of the coaches that have been fitted with fans ply on the main line and not on the branch lines and if so, what is the cause of this discrimination between the main line and the branch lines ?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know whether the information is correct. But the main line is more important and more passengers make use of the main line.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if all the coaches which are used as women's compartments will be equipped with fans even though they are more than 20 years old ?

Shri Alagesan : That was what I stated in my reply.

श्री बुलेकर : क्या धानरेडुल मिनिस्टर माहब को यह मालूम है कि छोटे छोटे क्या बड़े बड़े स्टेशनों पर भी एलेक्ट्रीशियन नहीं रहते हैं और पंखे बन्द हो जाते हैं और शिकायत करने पर भी कोई पंखों को नहीं चलाता, और २६ तारीख को जी० टी० एक्सप्रेस इस लिये नई दिल्ली स्टेशन पर खड़ी रही कि वहाँ एलेक्ट्रीशियन नहीं था ।

Shri Alagesan : I think stoppage of electricity occurs even in residential buildings in Delhi.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): And in this House also.

Indian Shipping

*1241. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of the President of the All India