

(b) if so, how much has been realised by way of repayment?

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

(b) A sum of Rs. 1.89 crores has since been repaid.

Shri Keshavaingar: May we know if it is a fact the Government has a scheme to plough back the returns on this item again for loans for the purchase of ships for coastal and overseas trade?

Shri Alagesan: There is no particular question of ploughing back the returns. We have set apart sums for being granted as loans. Even in the Second Five Year Plan a huge sum has been set apart.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if all the instalments for the repayment of loans have been regularly paid, if not, what is the reason?

Shri Alagesan: They are being repaid.

ALAGESAN COMMITTEE

***1088. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to item 34 of the statement (ii) referred to in the reply given to Starred Question No. 757 on the 13th December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the examination of experiments in Army School Cookery method by Departmental Catering Establishments has been completed; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at by Government?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The matter is still under examination.

Shri Dabhi: May we have some idea as to what is this Army School Cookery method?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: In the Army they used to have an institution known as the Army School of Cookery. It

used to be a centre for training cooks from the various units to give them centralised training in preparing excellent dishes.

Shri Dabhi: May we know the names of stations on the Western Railway where departmental catering has been already introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It does not arise out of this question. But I may inform the hon. Member that Mehsana and Ratlam are the two stations where departmental catering has been introduced from the 1st of April.

TOURISM

***1089. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1955 with separate figures for each country;

(b) the names of the places mostly visited by them;

(c) the average duration of their stay in India; and

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange earned through them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexeure No. 19]

(b) Information in respect of the places visited by each tourist is not collected and it is difficult to give a categorical reply. However, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Ajanta-Ellora, Jaipur, Banaras, Agra and Kashmir appear to be most popular with tourists.

(c) According to a pilot survey conducted in Delhi in June-September 1955, the average duration of stay of a foreign tourist in India is estimated at 25.82 days.

(d) The amount of foreign exchange earned during the year 1955 has not so far been worked out by the Reserve Bank of India.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : From the statement I find that more than 43,000 persons visited India during 1955. May I know how this figure compares with the figures of previous years ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : There has been a steady increase every year.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know whether, after completing the tour, these tourists give their impressions and reactions ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : When the tourists arrive here, we hand over a card to them. We request them to return that card duly filled in. They give their impressions on that card. But, I may say, all the cards, which are distributed, are not necessarily sent back to us.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो विदेशी यात्री इस देश में आये, उनकी यात्रा के सम्बन्ध में उनको कोई असुविधा तो नहीं रही और उस सम्बन्ध में कोई शिकायतें तो उनकी नहीं आईं और अगर आईं तो किस तरह की आईं और उनके दूर करने का क्या प्रयत्न किया गया ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : जहाँ तक सम्भव होता है हम कोशिश करते हैं कि जब वे यहाँ आये तो उनको कोई तकलीफ न हो। कई एक बार यह बातें हमारे नोटिस में लाई गयीं कि बहुत से होटलों में जो बाथ रूम फ़ैसिलिटीज थीं, उनसे वे खुश नहीं हैं और उनको बेहतर बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

Shri R. P. Garg : May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the literature produced so far for the tourists is not very authentic and better production of such literature is needed for attracting more tourists to India ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : We are prepared to look into the question and see that the literature we publish

is further improved. But, I may inform the hon. Member that the literature we have so far published has been very much appreciated, not only here in this country, but also by foreigners.

Shri A. M. Thomas : May I enquire why the Transport Ministry has not taken any serious steps so far to popularise places of tourists interest such as the Games Sanctuary at Thekkedey, Cape Comorin and other places in the South ?

Shri Alagesan : Yes, Sir. These are all very important places and places of great tourist attraction. These places are also being popularised. But, as you will see from the answer supplied by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, the number of days the foreign tourists stay in this country are not many, and so they have to pick and choose. It may be that, because of that, some places in South India are left out of the itinerary of the foreign tourists.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर टेलीफोन

*१०६०. श्री भक्त बर्षान : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बात बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बहुत से रेलवे स्टेशनों पर टेलीफोन की सुविधाओं के न होने के कारण लोगों को बहुत असुविधा होती है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उत्तर रेलवे के कुल कितने रेलवे स्टेशनों पर यह सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है ; और

(ग) ऐसे स्टेशनों पर टेलीफोन लगाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : (क) हो सकता है, कुछ स्टेशनों पर ऐसी बात हो।

(ख) एक बयान सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [द्वैत्य परिशिष्ट ६, अनुबन्ध सं. २०]

(ग) इन स्टेशनों पर जल्द ही टेलीफोन लगाने के लिए डाक और तार विभाग को लिखा गया है।