

खाने पीने की है, उसकी मिकदार भी बढ़ रही है।

पंडित के० सी शर्मा : क्या वह बढ़ता ही जा रहा है या उसकी जो क्वालिटी है वह भी अच्छी होती जा रही है ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: We are going away from research to the actual supply of goods.

GOODS TRANSPORT ON N.E.
RAILWAY

*489. **Shri Anirudha Sinha**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no proper classification for allotting priority in transport of seasonal and perishable goods on the Metre-Gauge Section of the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reason thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, the General Preferential Traffic Schedule is equally applicable to the North Eastern Railway. Perishable traffic falls in the higher category 'D'. Seasonal traffic as such however, does not generally enjoy any special priority; the inter-priority classification of such traffic depends upon the comparative importance and urgency of the movement of the various kinds of commodities concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: May I know whether it is a fact that preferential movement is not allowed to seasonal and perishable commodities like onion and potato which have to be moved in a particular season on the metre gauge section of the North-Eastern Railway?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is a slight difference between perishable and seasonal traffic. Perishable traffic is given a higher priority, whereas seasonal traffic is given a slightly lower priority.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: Will the Government tell the House whether seasonal and perishable commodities will be properly classified and will be given due priority for movement during particular seasons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it a suggestion for action?

Shri Anirudha Sinha: I want that some preferential treatment should be given and necessary action should be taken in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All that will be said during the discussion on the Railway Budget.

RADIO-PHOTO AND PHOTO
TELEGRAPH SERVICE

*490. **Shri D. C. Sharma**: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the radio-photo and the photo-telegraph services have not proved to be popular?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The traffic on these services is increasing and the services are, therefore, becoming popular.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I now what that increase has been and if that increase can be called appreciable, considerable or adequate?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The increase can be said to be encouraging and it may be indicated by the following statistics which I have collected so far as external services are concerned. In 1949-50, the figure was 18,300 centimetres in photo space, in 1950-51, it was 27,100. The last two figures are 29,600 for 1953-54 and 1,04,475 for 1954-55. The number of photo-messages has gone up to 146.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the rates for these services are very high and that if these rates are reduced, the response will be much more encouraging than it is now?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The rates are not high if we keep in mind the expenditure that is being incurred for the services. The recurring expenditure comes to Rs. 34,767 and the income is only