

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I have no information.

श्री विभूति मिश्र: क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि रक्सौल रेलवे स्टेशन का स्टेशन मास्टर जो कि रात में काम करता था, उसने बिना गूड्स ट्रेन के इंजन को स्टेशन यार्ड में लगाये भेलाही से पैसंजर ट्रेन छोड़ने की अनमति दे दी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : वहां खास २ क्या २ बातें हुईं यह अभी तक तय नहीं हो पाया, क्योंकि गवर्नमेंट इंस्पेक्टर आफ रेलवेज की जो आखिरी रिपोर्ट है वह अभी तक नहीं आई है ।

Shri Amjad Ali: With regard to part (b), when can we expect the report of the Railway Inspector?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We cannot indicate the exact time, but it will be received very soon.

RAILWAY SALOONS AND PASS PRIVILEGES

*40. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the categories of officers who are entitled to (i) saloons, (ii) four wheeled carriages, (iii) card passes and (iv) metal passes in a division?

(b) Are these officers allowed to carry their families on all the above categories of passes and if so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that even class II officers are provided with carriages and issued metal passes?

(d) What allowances, if any, are these officers entitled to get in addition to free pass facilities to themselves and their families?

(e) Is there any check over the misuse of these concessions?

(f) If so, what is it and how is it exercised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) (i) and (ii). While travelling on

duty Railway Officers of Administrative Grade are entitled to an 8-wheeled inspection carriage, Officers of District rank to a 6-wheeled or a 4-wheeled and other Officers of a lower rank to a 4-wheeled inspection carriage.

(iii) and (iv). Metal or in the alternative card passes are issued to all Officers whose duties require frequent tours over the division.

(b) These Officers are allowed to take their families with them on duty passes of all descriptions.

This facility is allowed as the Officers have to be out of their headquarters frequently and for long periods.

(c) Yes.

(d) In addition to free passes, the Officers are eligible for daily allowance for self only as admissible under the rules.

(e) and (f). The ticket checking staff are required to check passes or metal tokens in possession of Officers travelling on duty in the same manner as they check fare-paying passengers travelling in train services.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any case of misuse of these facilities has come to the notice of the Ministry?

Shri Alagesan: Not to my knowledge.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any enquiry is going to be made to find out whether any misuse is being made of these facilities?

Shri Alagesan: We have not received any such case. If any case comes to our notice, certainly we will make enquiries about it; it is done in the usual course.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know if there is any proposal before the Government to do away with saloons for high officials in view of the fact that

the Minister himself travels in First or Second Class?

Shri Gidwani: I also want to ask the same question: is the system of saloons going to be continued, or under the new *raj* it will be abolished?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I do not know to what new *raj* the hon. Member is referring.....

Shri Gidwani: The *raj* of which you are a Minister.

Shri L. B. Shastri:...but I do not want to compel the officers not to travel in their inspection coaches. In fact, the officers are not travelling in saloons. 'Saloons' are their inspection coaches. They go on duty and they have to stay for several days at wayside stations. It is therefore more convenient for them to travel in those coaches.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the officers of the Railway Board, or the General Managers, are allowed the use of saloons when they proceed on leave?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No, Sir.

FRUITS

*41. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts are being made to convert inferior types of fruits of wild trees to table fruits;

(b) if so, where and by whom; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government started this work three years ago?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) In Punjab, U.P., Bombay and Madhya Pradesh by the respective Governments.

(c) Yes.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether any steps have been taken

to preserve large quantities of precious fruits that go to waste during the glut season?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This, I think, is a different question from what the hon. Member has asked.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know how many licence-holders are there who manufacture food products and those who are given licences?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This does not arise out of the question.

Shri Heda: Can we get an idea of the wild trees which are going to be converted into fruit trees?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Generally this has been confined to mango and ber trees but some other trees also can be treated similarly for instance *amla*.

Shri Heda: What about *babul*?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not a fruit tree.

INDO-U.S. AIR AGREEMENT

*43. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the progress that has been made in the negotiations with the United States on the conclusion of a fresh Indo-U.S. agreement on air travel?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No negotiations have started.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it a fact that there have been complaints from the British and Dutch regarding discrimination in favour of the United States in regard to this Agreement?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The matter was taken up with the United States Government quite early that is in 1951 and as such these other foreign airlines were waiting for our final decision.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: When can we expect the finalisation of the Agreement which shall not incorporate any discrimination in favour of the United States?