

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Since the provision exists, when we have decided to strengthen the existing stations in charge of the State Governments, we may draw on this.

Shri Achuthan: May I know what was the total amount allotted for the whole purpose and may I also know if the recommendations are going to be implemented and not a single research station other than the existing ones will be opened?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think that would be correct because if our existing State stations will be developed, they will probably be as good as the Central Stations which we originally contemplated.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : बिहार में कोई एग्जीक्यूटिव रिसर्च इंस्टीच्यूट खोलने की योजना है कि नहीं ?

डा० पं० श० बेशमुख : अभी नहीं बोला गया है। यह प्रपोजल था कि हम कुछ रीजनल सेंटर्स खोलें जो हमारे पूरा इंस्टीच्यूट की बांचेज हों मगर अभी यह सिफारिश की गई है कि ऐसा करना ठीक नहीं होगा और बेहतर यह होगा कि जो स्टेट्स के रीजनल स्टेशंस हैं उन्हीं को डेवलप किया जायगा।

Passenger Amenities

+
*1197. { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
Shri Dabhi:
Shri M. R. Krishna:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been set up to examine the present amenities available to Class III passengers inside compartments; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of this committee?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 75]

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether this Committee would also go into the requirements and the demands of the third class travelling passengers for sleeping accommodation as well?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No, Sir; this does not form part of the terms of reference of this committee.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether any time-limit has been fixed for this committee to submit its report?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No time-limit is fixed; but, I hope the report would be available before the end of this month.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Two members of this three-men committee belong to the Northern Railway Zone. Am I to understand that passenger amenities are better in the Northern Railway Zone than in other zones?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We do not make any distinction among the Railway officers. They are quite capable of looking at things dispassionately.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the committee will enquire into the matter of giving better taps in the third class compartments because, at present, it is very difficult to get water and they must be worked through the pressure of two persons—whether they will give taps just like in the first class?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That aspect will be looked into.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether it is the intention of Government to implement the recommendations that are likely to be made by this committee in the next Railway Budget?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether the public were given the opportunity to express their views on this matter?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Public have ample opportunities of expressing their views, either by making direct complaints or through Zonal Committees.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Or in the General Elections.

Plant Protection

*1198. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken and/or proposed to be taken in pursuance of the Plant Protection Agreement for South East Asia and the Pacific to ensure prevention of the introduction of destructive plant pests and diseases from other parts of the world and to check their spread within the region itself?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 76]