

Insurance Scheme for the Users of Railways

*517. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the proposal regarding the introduction of insurance for the users of the Railways, particularly the passengers will take effect; and

(b) at what stage the proposal stand at present and the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Sir, the proposal for introduction of insurance for the passenger is under consideration.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: May I know from which quarter this proposal came and whether the opinion of the Passengers' Association has been taken into account?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): The proposal originated from the Ministry itself. We have not consulted the Passengers' Association. We have to finalise what exactly the details would be.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: May I know which other institutions will be consulted in the matter?

SHRI T. A. PAI: This is a matter which perhaps would confer considerable benefit to the passengers. Insurance benefits only those who get involved or take a risk of getting involved. Therefore, it is very difficult now to consult anybody on this question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Cricket Match on T.V.

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S.N.Q. 1. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to show on T.V. the

first official cricket test match between India and M.C.C. to be played in Delhi from 26th December, 1972; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, no supplementary should arise out of this.

श्री शशि भूषण अध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले मैं क्रिकेट-फैन्स की तरफ से सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछली बार सेंट्रल हाल में सदस्यों को मैच दिखलाने के लिये टी० वी० खाने का इन्तजाम किया गया था, क्या इस दफा भी उस की व्यवस्था करेगे ?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: We will be too happy to do it.

अध्यक्ष महोदय सेंट्रल हाल के बारे में हम से बहे—मिनिस्टर ने नहीं, अगर उन को रिक्वेस्ट करेगे तो नहीं मानूंगा।

श्री शशि भूषण मैं आप का भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ, आप हमारे लिये इतना ख्याल करते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय धन भी जरूर करूंगा कम से कम इसका इतना फायदा तो होगा कि आप बहा बँडेगे।

AN HON. MEMBER: There will be no quorum in the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On 20th, 21st and 22nd, we shall be attending Parliament and will not be able to witness the Test Match. At least, we can see in the T.V.

श्री इन्द्रजीत कुमर सेंट्रल हाल में दिखाने के लिए आप की प्रयत्नशीलता की जकरस है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : परीक्षण की वधा जरूरत है, थाप वहां लगाइये, हम बहुत बैलकम करेंगे। हो सके तो हर कम्पे में लया दीजिये।

श्री सतिश ब्रह्म में जानना चाहता हूँ कि टी० वी० पर प्रसारण के लिए प्राय क्रिकेट कन्ट्रोल बोर्ड को किननी रायलटी दे रहे हैं ?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: In the beginning, the Delhi Cricket Association, which is the controlling authority, feared that the gates would be affected, but now they have sportingly agreed. Thanks to the President of Delhi Cricket Association, Mr. Ram Prakash Mehra, they have agreed to the telecasting of the Test and we have agreed to pay them Rs. 25,000.

SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this payment has been effected only for this Test series or as a permanent arrangement.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: This arrangement is only for this particular Test in Delhi.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will you extend that to Bombay also?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: We will consider that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I just want to point out that this is the only Short Notice Question that has been admitted during this Session—this is so important, so vital, so serious!

श्री मुकम चण्ड कल्लवार : इस में श्री अधिक् महत्व के सवाल किये जाते हैं, लेकिन उनको नहीं लिया जाता।

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up the call-attention.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in freight and passenger traffic

*501. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA:**
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether freight traffic and passenger traffic have doubled during the last twenty years;

(b) whether in spite of the increase in Rail traffic, the profit of the Railways has not increased proportionately; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Railways continued to show profit upto 1965-66 after paying dividend at the prescribed rates on the Capital-at-Charge. In the subsequent five years, the results of working showed a deficit after the payment of the dividend. This trend has been reversed in 1971-72.

The reasons for the deterioration in the financial position of the Railways since 1965-66 are as under:—

(i) Increases in rates and fares had not kept pace with the steadily mounting costs of operation, arising out of increases in the wages of staff and cost of fuel and Railway stores and equipment.

(ii) The quantum of Freight traffic was not increasing to the extent anticipated after 1965-66.

Delay involved in setting up Haldia Fertiliser Complex

*504. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government failed to decide promptly the issues involved