

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I require notice. When I go for the inspection, I will look into this matter also.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that employment opportunities to the local people are denied in this railway project ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I myself subscribe to the point of view of the hon. Member that local people must be given the first preference in employment because the unemployment problem has to be solved in the area itself.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : That is an axiomatic truth. It is just an expression of a pious wish. I am grateful to him for that. But I want to know what steps Government are proposing to see that the local people get adequate employment opportunities in this project.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about the construction of the line, whether it is according to schedule or not.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : It is ancillary to that. If he answers it, it will embolden us to pursue it further.

SHRI P. G. DEB : Do I take it that further extensions of time in construction will not take place hereafter ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I hope not.

Railway Saloon Facility

*17. **SHRI R. P. YADAV :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to withdraw Railway Saloon facility ; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to stop its misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : ऐसा देखा गया है कि रेलवे अधिकारीगण प्रायः हवाई जहाज से सफर करते हैं और रेलवे-सैलून पड़े रहते हैं। क्या उन रेलवे-सैलूनों को ट्रेवलर्स-कोचेज में कन्वर्ट करने का कोई प्रोग्राम है ?

MR. SPEAKER : How does it arise out of this ? Is the Minister in a position to clarify ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : There is no proposal to convert these inspection carriages to passenger coaches. On the other hand, wherever there is an air-conditioned coach, if there are foreign or other tourists who are prepared to pay for it, we place it at their disposal.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI : In spite of the fact that Government are trying to enhance the facilities to the common man in regard to railway travel and the railway Budget deficit is shooting up every year and we are still not in a position to provide adequate amenities to third class passengers, could we not ask the people who can afford to travel in these saloons to pay a percentage, say 10 per cent, for the use of this facility--this includes M.Ps. also-- which can be put in a fund which can be utilised for providing further facilities to the third class passengers ?

MR. SPEAKER : Too long a question. Are there Saloons for M.Ps. also ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : It arises out of part (a) of the question. Even if they do not withdraw the facility, at least they can utilise a part of the proceeds from it for the interest of the common man. So it is directly connected.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I want to place the true picture of these saloons before the House. I myself took the trouble to inspect such carriages yesterday so that I could answer about the actual position. I saw most of these inspection carriages are moving offices. The officers who travel from place to place are expected to inspect track and dispose of various matters arising during the course of administration.

Therefore, it is not so much facility for enjoyment as amenities provided for work relating to administration. Only those per-

taining to the President, Vice-President and Governors are saloons in the real sense. They are only four or five, and they are meant for dignitaries. Even if we abolish all these railway saloons, it will not result in any perceptible appreciation of our revenues to bring down our losses.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Psychological.

श्री मुकम चन्द्र कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस देश में 900 सैलून चल रहे हैं और दूसरी ओर रेलगाड़ियों में भयंकर भीड़ होने के कारण काफी लोग उसमें से गिरते दिखाई देते हैं। इस लिए मैं आपके माध्यम से मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन सैलूनों को कम करके, जिन क्षेत्रों में रेलों की कमी है—वहाँ पर और रेलगाड़ियाँ चलाने पर विचार करेंगे ?

दूसरे—मन्त्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि इन सैलूनों को हटाने का विचार वे नहीं कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि उन सैलूनों का दुरुपयोग नहीं किया जाता है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ अफसरों ने जैसा उत्तर लिखकर भेज दिया है वही मन्त्री जी ने यहाँ पर पढ़ दिया है। मन्त्री जी ने कहा कि उन्होंने स्वयं जाकर देखा और अनुभव प्राप्त किया है कि उनका दुरुपयोग नहीं होता लेकिन मेरी जानकारी है कि वास्तविक रूप में उनका दुरुपयोग किया जाता है। (व्यवधान)...रेलवे के अफसरों को जो सहूलियतें दी जाती हैं वः फर्स्ट क्लास के पर्सेजर्स को भी नहीं दी जाती है। इसलिए इन दोनों में समानता हो उसके लिए क्या प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I have already answered the question, that these amenities are meant for officers to do work. It is not just to sleep the whole journey. Therefore, it is not possible to implement the suggestion that the hon. Member has made.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What is the total number of saloons ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : There are different categories : Broad Gauge—8-wheeler bogies—143 ; 6-wheeler—1 ; 4-wheeler—541 ; Metre Gauge—8-wheeler bogies—164 ; 6-wheeler—42 ; 4-wheeler—285. Total : 8-wheelers—307 ; 6-wheelers—43 ; 4-wheelers—826. I want the hon. Members to know that this is meant for the whole country, for all the railways put together. It is not for one place or one region.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : What is the basis on which the railway officers are allowed to make use of these saloons, and does the hon. Minister think that such a large number of saloons is necessary ? I can understand the necessity in the case of officers who have to maintain the track, but what is the need for other officers to make use of such huge saloons ? These 8-wheelers are used only by high officials. So, what is the basis on which the railway officers are allowed to make use of this facility ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : As the hon. Member, who has got large experience regarding the railways, knows, there are rules on the subject. If there is any misuse by the officers, if those who are not entitled to them are using them, and if he brings such cases to my notice, I will examine that question.

Pending applications for Industrial Licenses

*19. DR. KARNI SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications under the industrial licensing system which were pending on the eve of the dissolution of Lok Sabha ;

(b) the number of applications disposed of after the dissolution ; and

(c) the number out of them which were pending for more than one year, two years and three years, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.