

**Allotment of book-stalls at Railway Stations so educated unemployed**

996. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the response from the educated unemployed for allotment of railway book-stalls is generally very poor because they find it difficult to fulfil the terms and conditions laid down for the purpose;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to relax the terms and conditions in favour of the educated unemployed; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above is affirmative, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, but the response from the unemployed graduates for allotment of book-stalls at railway stations has not been as good as expected. This is not because of any difficult terms and conditions, as the terms and conditions have already been very much liberalised. Unemployed graduates have been exempted from the payment of rent in the first year of the contract. They also do not have to pay any royalty like other major book stall contractors. Furthermore, they are required to pay only a nominal lumpsum licence fee not exceeding Rs. 50/- per stall per annum during first three years\*.

Besides, a scheme for financing the unemployed graduates upto a maximum of Rs. 5000/- for setting up book-stalls has been finalised with the State Bank of India and the State Bank of Hyderabad. The Government have also taken a decision to advance upto Rs. 3000/- from the Provident Fund of the Railway employee in the case of allotment of such stalls to unemployed graduate sons/wards of Railway employees.

Probably, the main difficulty is that while established book-stall contractors are

able to get facilities like purchase of books on credit from the publishers, such facilities are not available to the new entrants.

**Ordinary chairs in 1st Class compartments of the Krishna Express**

997. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ordinary chairs are provided in the 1st Class Compartments of the Krishna Express between Hyderabad and Gunlur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for the same distance the fare charged for air-conditioned chair car in other trains is much lower than that of the ordinary chair car in the Krishna Express;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to convert 1st Class chair car into an air conditioned chair car in this train; and

(e) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) One standard I class chair car is provided on Krishna Express.

(b) Yes.

(c) 1st class and A. C. chair car are two distinct classes of accommodation with separate basis of fares, 1st class being considered higher of the two classes.

(d) No.

(e) These A. C. chair cars are provided only on selected long distance trains at present.

**Irregular supply of cooking gas in Calcutta**

998. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared under the caption "irregular supply