

**STATEMENT**

The main reasons for not agreeing to the restoration of 5% commission on ordinary tickets are as under :

(i) The Travel Agents are primarily expected to procure promotional traffic. For this reason they are paid commission of 10% of the value of tickets issued to the overseas tourists visiting India. In respect of Indian travellers also they are being paid commission of 5% of the value of Air-conditioned and First class tickets issued by them in conjunction with sea or air travel, tickets issued for excursion parties travelling in reserved carriages or special trains and circular tour tickets. For the general passenger traffic at equate booking facilities have been provided by the Railways themselves at stations and no particular canvassing is required to secure the traffic. Hence a rate of more than 3% commission is not warranted on the sale of such tickets.

(ii) With the merger of the passenger-fare tax in the basic fare from 1-4-61, the Travel Agents are indirectly getting commission on the tax element of the fare also which they were not getting earlier.

(iii) With the increases made in the passenger fares from time to time, the commission of the Travel Agencies has also increased correspondingly; and

(iv) From 1959, the Travel Agencies have been allowed to collect a service charge of 1% on the sale of card tickets which they were not entitled to previously.

**SETTING UP OF ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES IN HATIA AND RANCH**

♦174. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some ancillary industries have been started in Hatia and Ranch to help the Heavy

Engineering Corporation in manufacturing machinery and other components;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these industries which were started with the help of the Government of India are not manufacturing machinery for the Heavy Engineering Corporation, but are supplying the parts manufactured in other States; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The ancillary industries are supplying manufactured items after processing raw materials supplied by Heavy Engineering Corporation or, in a few cases, obtained by direct purchase from the market.

(c) Does not arise.

**PAVEMENT DWELLERS IN CALCUTTA**

475. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pavement dwellers in Calcutta, at present;

(b) the number of beggars, unemployed persons and persons employed below subsistence level among them and how many of them were born on the footpaths; and

(c) the kind of relief, if any, given to these pavement dwellers by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c) The requisite information about the pavement dwellers is not available with the Government. A recent survey of beggars carried out by the West Bengal Government indicates an existence of over 30,000 beggars in the city. The problems of the beggars, including those among the pavement dwellers, are being dealt with under the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943.