

BOOKSTALLS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

226. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the upto-date number of book vendors on various stations of the Indian Railways;

(b) the number of stations allotted to each book company and the number of years since each of these companies are holding book-stall contracts at various stations;

(c) the number of stations where special arrangements have been provided for the sale of 'Sarvodaya' literature;

(d) the number of stations where arrangements have been made for the sale of books by Co-operative Societies; and

(e) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the Companies like A.H. Wheeler,

Higginbothams and Gulab Singh etc. surrender their contracts to their sub-agents and thereby earn a fixed profit at Stations like Bhopal, Itarsi, Nagpur etc?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) Sixty-six.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Five managed by Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh and Jalgaon District Sarva Seva Samiti. All other bookstall contractors also have instructions to sell 'Sarvodaya' literature.

(d) One.

(e) No such complaint has been received. In terms of the agreements entered into with the bookstall contractors, sub-letting of the contracts is strictly prohibited, and where sub-letting is proved, the contracts are to be terminated.

STATEMENT

Bookstalls at Railway Stations

S.No.	Name of bookstall contractors	Number of stations at which bookstalls are held	Since when the contractors are held
1	M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. (P) Ltd.	311	27 to 70 years.
2	M/s. Higginbothams (P) Ltd.	62	Not readily available.
3	M/s. Swadesamitran Ltd.	23	Over 30 years.
4	M/s. Gulab Singh & Sons Ltd.	18	Not readily available.
5	The Gita Press	5	2 to 3 years.
6	Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh	3	1 to 2 years.
7	Jalgaon District Sarva Seva Samiti	2	1 year.
8	M/s. Mathruhum Agencies	4	1 to 9 years.
9	M/s. Saraswathi Book Depot	3	5 to 8 years.
10	Shri B S. Kulkarni	3	4 to 8 years.
11	Shri L. Seshadri	2	2 to 9 years.
12	Shri Jagannath Joshi	3	Over 12 years.
13	Shri Bhogilal Tanna	2	8 years.
14	Shri A.H. Pandya	3	7 years.
15	M/s. K.M. Agarwal & Sons	2	7 years.
16	M/s. R.N. Shukla & Sons	2	4 years.
17 to 66	50 individual contractors	1 each	Not readily available.

NOTE—The contracts for running bookstalls are generally awarded for a period of 5 years at a time and renewal thereof for a further period is considered by the Railway Administrations concerned on the basis of satisfactory service.