

ther the Gliding Centre at Jullundur is functioning and if it is functioning at which place, in which village or which town?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: At the present moment Jullundur is not functioning. That is the information that I have. I will certainly find out what the position about Jullundur is.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Only one question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Instead of a speech?

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is it lack of administrative ability or organisational ability that there are twenty Flying Clubs but their Gliding Wings cannot be organised? What is the reason?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have already stated that if the Flying Clubs want to start Gliding Wings, they can have them. Of course, it may so happen that we may not have so many winches to be distributed. There may be so many difficulties but as far as the glider itself is concerned and the finance is concerned, there is no difficulty.

BLACK-MARKETING IN RAILWAY TICKETS

*8. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the black-marketing in Railway third class tickets regarding reserved third class sleeping accommodation;

(b) whether on this account it has become impossible in some trains to get III class reserved sleeping accommodation even nine days in advance; and

(c) whether Government contemplate bringing in some legislation in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V.

RAMASWAMY): (a) A few complaints regarding black-marketing in third class reserved accommodation have been received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know whether the Government are aware that this sleeping coach accommodation attached to the De Luxe trains is filled up fully on the very first day, that is, ten days before.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Sir, first come first served is the principle we follow and if on the very first day all the tickets are booked, we cannot help it.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if it is the practice that sleeping coach reservations are made at the starting stations and the intermediary travellers suffer on account of this black-marketing? May I also know if there is any arrangement for reservation of sleeping coach seats from the intermediary stations?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Certain quotas are given to certain stations.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMACHANDRA SATHE: Is it a fact that every TC has to give Rs. 26 or so daily to the Railways as recovery from passengers who travel without tickets/or who have heavy or unbooked luggage and, if so, does it not tempt them to follow corrupt practice?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: If the hon. Member would pass on the information to us we shall investigate it and bring it under control, but we deny it.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know the extent of black-marketing in respect of third class sleeping coach accommodation that has come to the notice of the hon. Minister?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: We are aware of some malpractices. As a mat-

ter of fact the new Bill that has to be introduced in the House is intended to meet this malpractice. As it is, the Indian Railways Act, 1890 does not have any provision to prevent these malpractices. We are intending to bring forward certain amendments which will see that any person other than an authorised railway servant or agent who sells or attempts to sell a railway ticket shall be punishable with fine and the ticket concerned shall be forfeited to the Railways. Again, any person who travels or attempts to travel on a railway ticket purchased from a person other than the authorised person, railway servant or agent shall be deemed to be travelling without a proper pass or ticket and shall be liable to be dealt with accordingly, and so on. So, we are trying to tighten them up by legislative measures also.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that certain anti-social elements, in collusion with the booking staff, purchase all or most of the tickets and reservation tickets and sell them to *bona fide* passengers later?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: According to the rules only four tickets can be purchased by any person. If it is beyond four, a blank paper ticket will have to be issued. That will restrict any malpractice. We have also a register by which we know the names of persons who buy the tickets. These are the several checks.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government is considering the advisability of increasing the number of third class sleeping coaches so that a greater supply of this type of accommodation may eliminate black-marketing?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That is one of the objectives of the Railway Administration. We want to make greater provision for third class passengers, but the limitation is the number of sleeping coaches.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that a few complaints had been received by him with regard to black-marketing of third class sleeping coach tickets. I would like to know what action has been taken with regard to the complaints received by him. Has anybody been punished? If so, has it come to his notice whether any of his railway officials are also involved in this malpractice?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I have got a number of cases where action has been taken. Some people have been brought before the courts and have been sentenced to fine. If any railway staff are involved, disciplinary action is taken and severe punishment is also given.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: In answer to part (b) of the question, the Minister was kind enough to say. "No". The question is: Whether it has become impossible in some trains to get third class reserved sleeping accommodation even nine days in advance? He says: "No". It means that in no train it is impossible to get accommodation nine days in advance. Am I to understand that he is so sure that it is possible to get tickets nine days in advance in some trains?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The answer is very correctly given. The question is: "Whether it has become impossible....." It has not been brought to our notice at all that it has become impossible.

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: Is the hon. Minister aware that third class sleeping berths are reserved in the names of some railway officers and servants in league with the reservation staff and then later on these tickets are sold? When you sell these tickets to the public their number has to be given on the reservation slip but when these are sold to Government servants their pass number is given or something like that. So, most of the accommodation is reserved in the name of fictitious Government officers in league

with the railway staff and then they are sold to other persons after taking bribe.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: All these come under the general name of malpractices. Now, this is one instance. We have introduced a system whereby names have got to be entered on the register along with the addresses. Sometimes we resort to checking, where the addresses are useful, by calling them on the telephone, if they are on the phone, to find out whether they have really bought the tickets. These are some of the methods, but human ingenuity being what it is we are unable to cover the entire totality of malpractices.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The hon. Deputy Minister has just stated that answers are given very correctly. But is he aware of the fact that railway officials pass on wrong information to the Minister and misleading information is given to the House? If I give a concrete example, will the Minister take action against such officials?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have a concrete example and if you pass it on, he will do something about it.

MEASURES TO CHECK RISE IN PRICES OF FOOD ARTICLES

*9. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry, in consultation with the Planning Commission proposes to take certain measures to check further rise in prices of food articles; and

(b) if so, what are those measures?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The question of prices of

food articles is being reviewed from time to time and suitable measures are taken as and when necessary. No specific measures are at present under discussion.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, what are the specific reasons for the increase in food prices in spite of Governments claim of a bumper crop and also all the facilities and privileges given in planning?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As far as last year is concerned, Government has never made any claim of a bumper crop in the country. We have only stated that food production has been less by more than 2 million tons compared to the previous year.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I say that only very recently a press statement was issued wherein it was stated that a bumper crop was expected this year? It is only in light I mentioned it. May I know if Government contemplates to have a single agency for the purpose of regulating the prices of all food articles?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As regards the bumper crop I may say that as far as the prospects for the next harvest are concerned, they are very bright and we expect a very good crop. We are taking so many steps for keeping prices under check. We have stepped up distribution of food-grains through our fair price shops. In fact, judged by the quantity that has been given this year, it is about 9 lakh tons up to October, whereas in the previous year it was only 7 lakhs tons of rice. With regard to wheat we have distributed till October about 2.9 million tons, whereas the previous year's figure was only about 2.6 million tons. There are other regulatory measures also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If statistics could feed, we are overfed. There is no doubt about it. May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that in