

What? May I know whether they are allowed to travel with their servants and so on? May I know how many such passes have been issued by the Railway Department?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Some passes have been issued to organisations which are engaged in the work of nation-building or some sort of very high class social work. In order to assist them to carry out their duties more efficiently we allow them a pass.

STANDARD OF CATERING ON DINING CARS

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

(a) whether there are different standards of food articles served, crockery and other utensils used for service, prices charged and uniform* used by waiters on Restaurant and Dining Cars on different railway trains;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is a general complain that in spite of requests for the same the waiters do not bring Complaint Books?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (Smt. S. V. RAMASWAMY) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The menu, prices and quantities of rice and chapaties have been standardized for full meals. The quantities of tea and coffee and their prices, as also the method of preparation have also been standardized.

The other items of food, such as sweets, namkins etc. are prepared to accord with local preferences and tastes.

Stainless steelware and crockery are required to be used for Indian style and Western style service respectively.

The design of crockery and the type of uniforms has been left to the individual Railway Administrations to decide.

The equipment used for service of food varies, taking into consideration the nature and number of items supplied, as warranted by local custom and taste.

In respect of uniforms, the type of uniforms used before the introduction of departmental catering service and the climatic conditions account for the variation among the different zonal systems.

(c) There have been some complaints.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: May I know the difference between the food in the restaurant cars and that in the dining cars? What are the items in which these two differ?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The question is not clear. You want to know the dishes?

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Is there any different standard of food in the restaurant cars and the dining cars?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: In the restaurant cars Western style of food is available but in the dining car Indian style is available.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether even in the restaurant cars Indian food is supplied?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Yes, sometimes.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Is it within the knowledge of the Government that the quality of food generally served either in the restaurants or the dining cars is not satisfactory and moreover there is no attention paid to the travelling public? Whenever food is asked, the bearer says that there is no time for it.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I am sorry that the hon. Member should be making such a sweeping statement.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: That is a fact.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The food served by the Catering Department of the Railways is much better than that served by the contractors and every attempt is being made to improve the services.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: The general complaint is whenever you go and ask the bearer to bring food, he says that there is no time. There is no attention paid to the travelling public.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Maybe there was rush at that time, or the time interval was too little. These are circumstances which may alter the position a little.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Since the Government have admitted that there have been complaints and since at many places the complaint book is not being taken to the passengers when they demand it, may I know whether the Government have taken any suitable action in the matter so that these things do not occur again?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: According to the statistics before me, there have been only 8 cases during the quarter ending June 1962 and when we receive complaints we look into them and take the necessary action.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if "Janata Meals" are also served in the dining cars and, if not, why they are not served?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: It is not served in the dining car because it is served in stationary establishments. Also it is not served because that will complicate the service.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Last time I was not supplied with the complaint book though I asked for it.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I thought the hon. Member was putting a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think it was a question.

*734. and *735. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cots. 3944-45 infra.]

NOMINATION OF MPs TO THE STUDY TEAM ON IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

*736. SHRI MAHABIR DASS: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament have been nominated on the Study Team for the review of the progress of work on various irrigation and flood control projects;

(b) if so, the names of such members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री महावीर दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि बाढ़ का अध्ययन और आगामी वर्ष के लिये बचाव करने के लिये सरकार की ओर से आफिसर्स भेजे गये हैं या नहीं ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. This is an official team consisting of the representatives of the Planning Commission, the C.W.P.C, the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and also the Food and Agriculture Ministry. They have been visiting the States and they have also asked for information from the various States so that after the collection of all that data, they may be able to visit other projects in other States also.

श्री महावीर दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय आसाम, बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में जो बाढ़ आ रही है उस का अध्ययन करने के लिये दोनों सदनों के सदस्यों को भेजने की कोई योजना है ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are prepared to consider that suggestion.