

will be served. Sir, I would like to correct my previous answer and say that some incidental expenditure was incurred. Arrangements about the fare and other things were made by the Russian Government, but some incidental expenditure has been incurred by us.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if the hon Minister does not think it worth while that whatever was known is put on paper so that in future such delegations which serve no purpose are ruled out by the Government?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This was not a delegation sent by the Government of India for studying any particular thing. This was an invitation, a friendly invitation from the Russian Minister of Agriculture to visit his country. It serves both the purpose of seeing the progress made there in agriculture as well as of social contacts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he wants is, even if information is known, it must be repeated because in this House also information is known but questions are asked and answers are repeated.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Are we to understand that this delegation served no purpose by going abroad because all the necessary literature by which we could profit here was available before the delegation went abroad?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No specific or high purpose was intended to be kept before the delegation. It was a friendly visit and we observed certain things and learnt from them.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Now that the hon. Minister has corrected his previous reply to the question I asked, may I know what exact amount was spent by us on this delegation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I require notice.

BLACKMARKETING *m* TICKETS AT BOMBAY CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION

◆326. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at Bombay Central railway station some persons purchase tickets, book seats in the third class compartments and then sell the tickets in the blackmarket;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check this blackmarketing in tickets;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway and the police authorities do not heed the complaints lodged by the passengers in this connection; and

(d) whether Government intend to post some special staff with special powers to check such evils?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes Sir, some complaints were received.

(b) A statement, showing the measures adopted is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Security and Police arrangements at Bombay Central have been strengthened to keep a special vigil on known badcharacters monopolizing the queues at the booking windows and take suitable action.

STATEMENT

With a view to checking the evil of undesirable elements indulging in black-marketing of passenger tickets, security and police arrangements have been strengthened at Bombay Central. Other steps taken to prevent black-marketing in tickets are: —

(a) Opening of extra booking windows during the busy season;

(b) Restricting the number of card tickets to be sold to a single individual generally to four during the busy season;

- (c) Issuing of card tickets and reservation tickets at the same window;
- (d) Indicating the train numbers for which they are valid on tickets;
- (e) Keeping larger number of booking windows open for longer hours with a view to avoiding crowding at booking windows during train timings.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether such incidents happen especially at times when there is a great rush either on the days of races or of Test Matches?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: As I said, some cases have come to our notice.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if any steps are going to be taken in respect of possible blackmarketing taking place on the railway line between Lucknow and Kanpur in the near future when the next Test match is going to be played at Kanpur? People will be going to Kanpur from Lucknow and Allahabad every day.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is anticipating a certain thing which may not happen at all.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: The hon. Minister says that such cases have been noticed, and such a thing is going to happen, as people every day will be going from Lucknow or Allahabad to Kanpur for the Test Match,

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No such instances have been noticed on that section. The hon. Member must remember that by putting the question, he is suggesting this to some people there.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: It is not suggesting. I know this is going to happen. I know that persons will be going from one place to another.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I know whether it was only in respect

of Bombay that the hon. Minister received information or any other stations? Was it confined only to Bombay?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The complaints were received only in respect of Bombay, and we have taken whatever action is possible.

•327. [*The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1520-21 infra.*]

OPENING OF POST OFFICES IN GUJARAT

•328. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

, (a) whether all the post-offices which were closed down during the disturbances two years ago at Ahmedabad and elsewhere in Gujarat have now been reopened;

(b) if not, how many are yet to be reopened and what are the reasons for the delay in reopening them;

(c) whether any new post offices have been opened in Gujarat after the formation of the new State; if so, where; and

(d) whether any extra postal, telephone or telegraph facilities have been provided at the operation centres of the oil drilling and exploration work anywhere in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two delivery Sub-offices have been opened at (i) Ahmedabad New Civil Hospital and (ii) Ahmedabad Gujarat Sachivalaya. Besides, 324 more post offices have been opened in various parts of the State upto 30th November, 1960.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.