

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In 1958 about 36 lakh tons of foodgrains have been distributed from the Central reserves through about 48,000 fair price shops.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know the reason why the policy with regard to State trading in foodgrains is not being implemented in most of the States when it is thought that this policy would enable the Government not only to procure stocks but also to regulate and bring down prices?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: We are working out the details of State trading. A study team was appointed which has submitted its report. That report has been sent to the State Governments, and most of the State Governments have sent their comments on it. The report is being simultaneously considered by the Planning Commission. As soon as we come to final conclusions, State trading will be introduced. Nonetheless keeping the broad picture of State trading in view we have already started operating in the market.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it not true that even in areas surplus in the matter of foodgrains like the Bikaner Division wheat prices have gone up to Rs. 40 a maund, and that in the fair price shops sufficient imported wheat is not available? The other day on the 7th of this month . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a straight question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I want to explain for a second. At the All-Parties Conference there was a demand for cheaper foodgrain shops, and the reply given by the State Government was that imported wheat was not available. Is this the position?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: With the available stocks which are not too low now, we have been meeting the re-

quirements of the State Governments. They send up their demands and we have been mostly meeting their demands. As far as internal distribution is concerned, it is their business. I have not known of any State where it is selling at Rs. 40 a maund.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: Would Government follow any definite price policy for some years to come in view of the decreased production of foodgrains in the country? Would they assure the agriculturists and farmers a guaranteed price for some years to come at least which is the only source for them to maintain their family and educate their children?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: We have fixed the prices at which rice is being bought and we are buying any quantity that is being offered, and therefore the prices which we have prescribed have now become the prices for the current season.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have spent ten minutes on this question. Next question.

रेलों पर सचल पुस्तकालय

* ७७ { श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान :
श्री व्यंकट कृष्ण डगे :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने चलती हुई रेलगाड़ियों में सचल पुस्तकालय खोले हैं; यदि ऐसा है, तो ये किन-किन रेलवे लाइनों पर खोले गये हैं और क्या ये अन्य रेलवे लाइनों पर भी खोले जायेंगे ;

(ख) इन पुस्तकालयों में किन-किन भाषाओं में और किन विषयों पर पुस्तकें हैं और प्रत्येक भाषा की पुस्तकों की संख्या क्या है; और

(ग) इनकी सदस्यता की क्या कोई फीस है; यदि हां, तो अब तक कुल कितने सदस्य बन चुके हैं ?

t [MOBILE LIBRARIES ON RAILWAYS

f SHRI NAWAB SINGH
*77. I CHAUHANJ:
[SHRI V. K. DHAGE:

Will the Minister 'of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opened mobile libraries on wheels; if so, on which railway lines they have been opened and whether these will also be opened on other railway lines;

(b) the languages in which books exist in these libraries, their subjects and their number in each of the languages; and

(c) whether there is any member ship fee; if so, what is the total number of members so far enrol led? J

रेल उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :
(क) से (ग). एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

रेलवे संस्थानों (Railway institutes) में जो सुविधायें दी गयी हैं उनमें से कुछ सुविधायें छोटे स्टेशनों पर काम करने वाले रेल-कर्मचारियों को देने के लिये दिसम्बर, १९५८ में रेल-प्रशासनों से कहा गया कि वे चलती-फिरती लाइब्रेरियां खोलने का प्रबन्ध करें। इन लाइब्रेरियों में अलग-अलग विषयों पर प्रादेशिक भाषाओं की काफी किताबें रखी जायेंगी। किताबों का चुनाव करे समय इस बात का ध्यान रखा जायेगा कि सम्बन्धित क्षेत्र के कर्मचारी किस तरह की किताबें पढ़ने के आदी हैं। इन किताबों की कोमत कर्मचारी कल्याण निधि (Staff

Benefit Fund) से दी जायेगी। हर रेलवे स्वयं इस बात का फैसला करेगी कि कर्मचारियों से सदस्यता की फीस ली जाये या नहीं।

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे में १९ दिसम्बर, १९५८ को समस्तीपुर-दरभंगा-नरकटियागंज सेक्शन में एक चलती-फिरती लाइब्रेरी खोली गयी। एक महीने में इसके ११४ सदस्य बनाये गये और उन्हें २८७ किताबें दी गयीं। जिस समय लाइब्रेरी खोली गयी उसमें हिन्दी, बंगाली और उर्दू की १,४३८ किताबें थीं। सदस्यों से कोई फीस नहीं ली जाती, लेकिन जमानत के तौर पर हर सदस्य से ३ रुपये जमा कराये जाते हैं। दूसरी चलती-फिरती लाइब्रेरी पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के गोरखपुर-गोंडा लूप सेक्शन में ५ फरवरी, १९५९ से खोली जाने वाली थी।

••[THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

With a view to extend some of the facilities provided in Railway Institutes to the Railway staff posted at way-side stations, Railways were advised in December 1958 to establish mobile libraries. The mobile libraries are to be stocked with adequate number of books in the regional languages on various subjects bearing in mind the reading habits of the staff in the areas concerned. The cost of the books is to be met from the Staff Benefit Fund and the question of realizing any membership fee is a matter for the individual railway to decide.

At present, on the North Eastern Railway, a mobile library has been introduced on 19th December, 1958 on Samastipur-Darbhanga-Narkatia-ganj section and 114 mem-

t[] English translation. ±The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nawab Singh Chauhan.

bers were enrolled during one month and 287 books were issued during this period. At the time the library was started there were 1438 books in Hindi, Bengali and Urdu. No membership fee is charged but a security deposit of Rs. 3 is taken from each member. Another mobile library was scheduled to start from the 5th February 1959 on the Gorakhpur-Gonda Loop section of the North Eastern Railway.]

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : इस बयान में बताया गया है कि दो लाइनों के ऊपर यह स्कीम चालू की गई है। क्या यह स्कीम अन्य स्थानों पर भी चालू की जायेगी ? ऐसी कोई सूचना सरकार को है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जी हां, ऐसा इरादा तो है, मगर जब यह स्कीम इन लाइनों पर कामयाब साबित होगी तब ।

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क : तक उम्मीद करे कि यह स्कीम तमाम लाइनों के ऊपर चालू हो जायेगी ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : उसमें तो वक्त लगेगा और जो तजुर्बा हम कर रहे हैं उसकी कामयाबी के ऊपर यह मुनहूसर है ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether any machinery has been set up for the selection of books for these libraries and whether the old practice of excluding certain types of books and flooding such libraries with other types of books will be followed in this matter as well?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We will take all types into consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In the railway stalls books of the leftist and other parties as well as certain other progressive literature are not being sold. In the matter of these libraries people are interested not only in American books but other books also. • May I know whether proper care will be taken to see that a policy of non-

alignment is followed in the matter instead of alignment with sex literature and other crime stories?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants non-alignment.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Without taking notice of those imputations and inferences contained in the question, I may inform the House that I have decided to set up a committee of writers of different regional languages to give us a list of at least 100 standard books to be maintained in all book stalls in the regional areas and also for the use of these mobile libraries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether Members of the opposition like us here would be consulted in this matter before the selection is made?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, persons who are renowned in the literary field, in the regional languages, will be on the committee, and they will do the work of the selection of these books. So the question of the Members of the opposition being consulted does not arise.

DR. A. N. BOSE: If the library is meant for readers and not for writers, should it not be a committee of readers rather than of writers?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I leave it to the judgment of the hon. Member himself whether the writers can be the best selectors or the readers.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: May I know whether books only will be provided or is it the intention to provide magazines also?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: In this library books will be provided. Magazines are available in the railway book stalls.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if Government propose to exclude from these libraries propagandist

literature whatever high sounding name that literature may bear?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has left it to the renowned writers.

DISCONTINUANCE OF RAILWAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PURULIA AND MURI

•78. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the railway communication between Purulia and Muri;

(b) if so, for what reasons;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down the loco and carriage shed at Purulia;

(d) whether the railway employees in Purulia have been asked to apply for being shifted to Ranchi;

(e) if so, whether Government have received any representations from the employees in this connection; and

(f) if the reply to part (e) above be in the affirmative, what is the nature of the representations and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The completion of the Chandra-pura-Muri-Ranchi B. G. line will leave a very short length 'of N. G. line between Purulia and Jiudaru. As a first class road runs parallel to the railway, road competition is extremely keen and this N. G. system is already suffering an annual loss of Rs. 11 lakhs. If the short N. G. Section is retained, traffic by rail over the 40 miles between Purulia and Muri will take, in-cic-yvs of transshipment, 5 hours and 9 hours by passenger and goods trains respectively as against the present timings of 4 hours and 64 hours. This will place the railway, whether N. G. or B. G., in a still more unfavourable

position *vis-a-vis* road competition on this 40 mile section and will substantially enhance the loss in working. In addition, considerable expenditure will have to be incurred in providing transshipment arrangements at Jiudaru.

(c) With closure of the line, the N. G. L'oco and Carriage sheds will also be closed down.

(d) An informal inquiry was made.

(e) Except for the Secretary, South Eastern Railwaymen's Union, no representations from the staff concerned were received.

(f) The representation received in January requested that the Union should be consulted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that there was an earlier proposal to transform this particular line now sought to be abolished into a broad gauge line and as a result of certain comments by the Finance Minister or some other Ministers in the Railway or the Railway Ministry the project has been given up?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: It was suggested. But it is not paying. The traffic there is not very much. There are only 500 passengers and the goods traffic is only 250 maunds each way. There is also a lot of bus competition and we thought it best to close it down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government has served notices or issued letters to the Railway employees in Purulia to file applications to be shifted to Ranchi when the construction of houses has already taken place in the light of the older project that they had undertaken?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I have stated that only an informal enquiry has been made and the representation is to the effect that they may be consulted.