

SHRI PURNA/ CHANDRA SHARMA: May I know the names of States in which ticketless travel is most prevalent?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, it is very difficult to say that. I find practically all the railways are affected though in the Northern Railway, South-Eastern Railway, Western Railway and Eastern Railway the incidence is more. But all the railways are affected.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is Government aware that due to lack of fencing on the other side of the railway line and even provision of gates in many places passengers board the trains from both the sides of the train and no steps are taken to prevent this as this leads to ticketless travel?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a different question.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is impossible at wayside stations to provide all that but we take the necessary steps to detect ticketless passengers.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: At some of the main stations, Sir, if I may give the information.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the number of I Class and II Class travellers travelling without tickets?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: We have not got the information class-wise.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is aware of the innumerable ticketless travelling going on every day in this capital of the Indian Union between Delhi and Shahdara and that too in the I Class, every day in the morning and evening?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not know if my friend found himself in that company but the staff is intensively checking the tickets.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: What are the chief reasons for ticketless travel? Is it due to poverty or what?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The reason is that people want to travel free.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Is it not because of goondaism that the checking staff are afraid of checking the tickets?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

LAND BROUGHT UNDER IRRIGATION BY HIRAKUD PROJECT

*560. SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIK: the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the total acreage of land so far brought under irrigation by the Hirakud Project?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): Area brought under irrigation upto the end of March 1957 was 89,485 acres. Information in regard to additional area irrigated during the present Kharif season beginning 1st April 1957 is not available.

SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIK: What is the length of the canal and the distributaries so far brought into operation?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The length of the canal and the distributaries? It is a very long thing and it will take long to read it. If he wants the information I shall supply it to the hon. Member.

SHRI MAHESHWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether any water cess is being charged for the supply of the canal water?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is not yet being charged because this is only the first year in which we have had this area under irrigation, but the Orissa Government are thinking of introducing a Bill by which they could do so.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Has it come to the notice of the Government that West Bengal is contemplating to exempt payment of water charges for the next five years and may I know whether the same concession is being extended in regard to Hirakud dam project also?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it not a matter for the Orissa Government?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: It is for the Orissa Government but he is talking about the West Bengal Government.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, what is the total acreage of land estimated to be irrigated by the Hirakud project?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Now in the first stage, excluding the delta scheme which, of course, will come immediately, it is 4,54,000 acres and under the delta irrigation scheme it is 10,77,157 acres. The total area which would be ultimately irrigated including the delta will be in the region of 15 lakhs or a little more of acres.

FILING OF SUITS BY CATERING CONTRACTORS

•561. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some catering contractors filed suits against Government in law courts against the termination of their contracts;

(b) whether all these cases were settled in court; and

(c) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER or RAILWAYS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A number of suits were dismissed while some others were withdrawn by parties. Some suits are still pending.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether those contractors who filed suits against the Government are given any contracts in some other railways on a smaller scale?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes, some of them have been given on rehabilitation account.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, in those cases where the suits have been dismissed in court the costs have been recovered by the Government?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, it all depends upon the judgment of the court.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the matter of court costs what action has been taken against those persons and what is the amount recovered?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can he give these details for every case.

श्री पी० एन० राजभोज: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कांटेक्ट रद्द करने का क्या कारण है और क्या सरकार ने कांटेक्ट रैन्जु किये हैं? यदि रैन्जु किये हैं तो किन शर्तों पर? और कितने कांटेक्टर हैं।

श्री जगजीवन राम : कितने कांटेक्टर हैं, इसकी लिस्ट बहुत लम्बी है। किन शर्तों पर, तो जो शर्तें चली आ रही हैं कि वहाँ खाना अच्छा मिलना चाहिये, मुसाफिरों को सुविधा होनी चाहिये, इन शर्तों पर कांटेक्ट दिया जाता है।

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: What is the amount so far spent to defend the cases?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am sorry I have not got it. I want notice.

श्रीमती सवित्री निगम: क्या मैं यह जान सकती हूँ कि जो एक प्रिविलेंड तरीके की खामियाँ हमें स्टेशनों के खाने में