

(b) the rate of commission paid to platform vendors engaged in the operation of departmental catering on such railway stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The rate of commission that is being paid to platform vendors is different for different commodities and there are also some variations at stations on different railways.

The bulk of trainside vending on commission basis under departmental catering is, however, being carried on at a rate of commission of 12½ per cent.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know, Sir, whether it is a losing concern or a profitable concern after the Government has introduced departmental catering?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, on the whole I can say that we are slightly losing on it.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know, Sir, if any enquiry has been made to find out the causes in respect of these losses?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, this thing is being constantly watched. On some railways we are running it at a profit, on some other railways not at such a big profit, and on some railways we are running it at a slight loss. But we are looking into the causes.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: I want to know the causes of these losses wherever they are incurred.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: They are being investigated.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether this is an experiment, and if the experiment is not profitable, whe-

ther the Government propose to stop it?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, only yesterday, the hon. Minister for Railways explained this question in great details, and in view of the very great improvement that has come about in the quality of the food supplied, we think that that slight loss might be worth while.

سرولانا ایم - فاروقی : کیا گورنمنٹ

کو اس کی اطلاع ہے کہ جہاں جہاں پر ڈیپارٹمنٹل کیترنگ ہو رہی ہے وہاں وہاں پر لوگوں کو بہ نسبت پرانیہویٹ کیترنگ کے زیادہ شکایتیں
ہیں۔

†[سولانا ام. ف. ریکی : کیا گورنمنٹ-
مٹکو اس کی ایتلا ہے کی جہاں جہاں پر
ڈیپارٹمنٹل کٹرنگ ہو رہی ہے وہاں وہاں
پر لوگوں کو بنسبت پرائیویٹ کٹرنگ
کے جیادا شکایاتے ہیں ?]

شری شاہنواز خان : گورنمنٹ کی جو
ایتلا ہے وہ انکی ایتلا کے بیلکول
برمکن ہے ।

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: In view of the losses incurred in certain stations, is the Government going to change its present policy and stop the extension of this departmental catering to other stations?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Very definitely no, Sir.

PILOT PROJECTS

*207. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what amount of money was sanctioned and spent in the Pilot Projects during the year 1956-57?

†Hindi transliteration.

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. K. DEY): Amounts sanctioned and spent upto 31st December, 1956 are Rs. 73.86 lakhs and Rs. 28.72 lakhs respectively.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, how many of these pilot projects are at present working in India?

SHRI S. K. DEY: Twenty-six.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, how they are selected and how do these projects differ from the ordinary community projects in the N.E.S. areas?

SHRI S. K. DEY: Sir, these projects do not differ from the ordinary projects except in the sense that we are concentrating in these areas on village and small-scale industries.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if any particular industries are selected for particular projects?

SHRI S. K. DEY: Yes, according to the raw materials, the local skill and the market available.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if any targets are fixed for all these industries in these pilot projects?

SHRI S. K. DEY: The target is the maximum practical employment of unemployed and under-employed population in these areas.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if all the N.E.S. centres are likely to be converted into pilot projects, if the present experiment succeeds?

SHRI S. K. DEY: Sir, they will cease to be pilot projects when we cover the whole country with industrial development.

27 RSD—2.

TELECOMMUNICATION COPPER WIRE THEFTS BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND DELHI

*208. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that theft of telecommunication copper wires between Calcutta and Delhi has been on the increase continuously; and

(b) what are the comparative figures of such thefts during the last three years and what is the loss sustained by Government on this account during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The figures for the last three years are:—

1954-55	1403
1955-56	1821
1956-57	2646

(ii) The value of the material lost during the last three years is:—

1954-55	Rs. 5,53,261
1955-56	Rs. 5,21,159
1956-57	Rs. 7,37,405

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is there any truth in the statement which appeared in the press that the losses on account of thefts of copper wires have come to Rs. 9 crores or something like that?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, I have given the figures. The loss in 1956-57 was Rs. 7,37,405.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether there is any machinery employed to check such thefts?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Well special steps have been taken. In view of these increasing losses and thefts, various measures have been taken. The first of these was the enactment of a special law called the Telegraph