

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We gave 100 per cent. for the first year and 66 per cent. of the expenditure for the remaining period of the Plan so that financial difficulties did not really stand in the way.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if in such cases Government thinks it advisable to consult the Members of Parliament elected from those areas with a view to overcoming the difficulties that may stand in the way?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We shall certainly do it and we shall be glad if we can get any help from Members elected from those areas.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Was any effort made to get retired personnel for this purpose?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Retired personnel also are extremely difficult to get.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: What is the type of personnel employed in these Centres?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The Health Visitor is the main person, and then there are *dais*, *nurse-dais* and other ancillary personnel.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF TOURIST GUIDES

*210. **SHRI R. M. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF DR. RAGHUBIR SINH):** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to paragraph 70 on page 35 of the Report of the Ministry of Transport for 1955-56, and state the number of candidates who are at present receiving training in guide service to tourists at Madras and Agra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Madras 25 and Agra 15.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How many of these are women?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think there are some women, but I am unable to give their number.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: The hon. Minister is not sure whether there are any women at all. At least can he give definite information that there are women there?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I shall find out and pass on the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know what kind of training is imparted to the guides?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Series of lectures are arranged regarding art and architecture of the country, local customs, geography, history, culture, festivals of the land, etc.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I take it that, since series of lectures are arranged, there must be some lecturers. In that case I would like to know who are the authorities who make the selection and the different categories or class of people from whom the lecturers are chosen.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I know that some able professors are selected for this purpose. They give these lectures. The Ministry selects them.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: What is the period of training?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Three months.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: May I know where this training centre is located in Agra?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know where it is located. Perhaps in the building that is occupied by the Tourist Information Office. I cannot say definitely.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Are these tourist guides charged any fee?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: A small fee is charged.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: How much?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am unable to say, but it is a small fee.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are they given any training concerning the historical monuments located in these places?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I want to know whether there is any attempt to see that special education is given to guides for special purposes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There will be a local bias. For instance, these guides get training in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Banaras, Madras and so on.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: My question is not about the local bias. My question is whether these guides get, for example any special coaching regarding historical monuments.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think there is any such categorisation.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know how these trained guides are employed after the completion of their training, whether under Government or otherwise?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They are not Government employees. Certain fees are prescribed and the tourists are expected to pay them.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: What is the qualification for these tourist guides who are taken for training?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There is no particular academic qualification fixed. I think that this question has

been answered several times on the floor of this House.

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION FOR PASSENGERS

*214. SHRI B. M. GUPTE (ON BEHALF OF SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN): Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger trains which have so far been provided with sleeping accommodation; and

(b) how many more trains will be provided with such accommodation during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Six pairs of trains, so far as third class is concerned.

(b) The matter is under examination.

SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Is this accommodation distributed evenly on all railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. One third class bogey is attached whether it is broad gauge or metre gauge. Of course, the capacity in the metre gauge coaches is less than the broad gauge.

SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Is this arrangement likely to be extended to the Pathankot Express in the near future?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, the whole thing is under examination. We have not decided on the trains where the sleeping accommodation will be extended.

SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Is the Government likely to accept the recommendation of the Estimates Committee to reduce the fee?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot say: We may not be able to accept that recommendation.