

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what are the total annual collections so far?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I can give the figures of total terminal tax on railway passengers. In 1954-55, passengers only, it is Rs. 25,48,945 and in 1955-56, it is Rs. 26,03,239.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Does the rate vary from place to place?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes, it does.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know who decides this tax, the State Government or railway authorities?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The railway authorities decide it on the recommendation of the State Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Partly my question has been answered but I would like to know whether in imposing the tax the railway authorities are consulted or they are just asked to collect the tax by the authorities concerned.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The rates are fixed by us in consultation with the State Governments. We serve as collecting agents.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसे प्रार्थना पत्र आये हैं जिनमें यह प्रार्थना की गई हो कि इस प्रकार के टैक्स न लिये जायें, जिनसे गरीब जनता को कष्ट होता है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : जी, नहीं । ऐसा प्रार्थना-पत्र तो हमारे पास नहीं आया है । लेकिन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से यह लिखकर के जरूर आया है कि और ज्यादा टैक्स लगाया जाय ।

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know why uniformity is not maintained in all stations, where this terminal tax is collected by the Railways?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It depends on the place. Suppose it is a big city or if there is a very big mela—for instance, if it is Kumbh Mela where 40 lakhs of people will go—the rates are fixed somewhat at a higher level; whereas for smaller places or melas the rates are fixed at a lower level.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know if the entire collection is handed over to the local bodies or whether any cost of collection is deducted?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The cost of collections is deducted; it is about 3 per cent.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know the figures available for Delhi station?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We have not levied any tax on passengers who come to Delhi.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What about Calcutta?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There is a tax levied for Calcutta, but I have not got the figures for Calcutta.

TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR ORISSA

***339. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Appendices 2 and 3 on page 31 and 32 respectively of the Activities of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1955-56 and state when the remaining subdivisional headquarters in Orissa will be provided with telegraph facilities and public call offices?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Most of them will be provided during the current year.

GIFT OF FOODGRAINS FROM U.S.A.

***340. MOULANA M. FARUQI:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

whole of the foodgrains offered to be given as gift to India by the Government of the United States of America in October 1955 have since been received.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): Yes Sir, except for a small balance of 500 tons of wheat which is on its way to India.

مولانا ایم : فاروقی : کیا آئندہ بھی کوئی ایسی امید ہے کہ اس قسم کے اور کثرت آپ باہر کے ملکوں سے حاصل کر پائے گے ؟

†[मौलाना एम० फारूकी: क्या आइंदा भी कोई ऐसी उम्मीद है कि इस किस्म के ग्रीन गिफ्ट ग्रान बाहर के मुल्कों से हासिल करेंगे?]

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This assistance is given whenever floods and droughts occur in the country and let us not wish for such things to occur in this country. We do not want such gifts nor such occurrences also.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the quantity which we have received so far?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: From America we have received 10,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of rice.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: From other countries?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Yes; we have received 1,000 tons of rice from Ceylon and about 200 tons of rice from Burma also.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the gift was earmarked for the relief of flood-stricken people of Bihar and Orissa only?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is earmarked for the flood-stricken people anywhere in India, wherever, floods occur.

† transliteration.

DR. P. C. MITRA: I wanted to know only for Bihar and Orissa.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: They were sent to all the flood-affected areas of India, U.P., Orissa, Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Punjab, Pepsu etc.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How much was given to each State?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: U.P. was given 2,000 tons of wheat and 2,000 tons of rice; Orissa 2,000 tons of wheat and 3,000 tons of rice; Bihar 700 tons of wheat and 2,000 tons of rice.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the stocks were distributed free of cost?

(No reply.)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Just now the hon. Minister stated that these gifts were received whenever there is some specific occurrence of floods or drought. I would like to know in connection with which specific occurrence of flood this gift was received from the United States of America because it is dated October, 1955.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Floods occurred in September and October 1955 in Punjab, Delhi and in some parts of West Bengal and Orissa. Immediately after that, as a gesture of goodwill they offered us 20,000 tons of foodgrains and we accepted that.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the stocks were distributed free of cost?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Gifts are always distributed free of cost.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Who is the distributing authority in the States?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The State Governments receive them and they make use of their official machinery and in some places the non-official machinery, like the Ram-

krishna Mission, Bharat Sewak Samaj and various other organisations, is also used.

**TRANSMISSION OF LOTTERY TICKETS
UNDER BOOK-POST COVERS**

*341. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transmission of lottery tickets under book-post covers has been completely banned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the transmission of such articles was recently interrupted on the initiative of the Railway Mail Service staff; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the book-post packets containing lottery tickets, so detained, have been disposed of?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, with the exception of lottery tickets relating to a State lottery or to a lottery authorised by a State Government.

(b) Yes. Some 40 bags full of book packets containing lottery tickets were interrupted in Delhi Paper Sorting Office in December, 1955 under Rule 45 of the Indian Post Office Rules.

(c) The contents of packets were examined and book packets containing lottery tickets were returned to the sender under Rule 45 of the Indian Post Office Rules and the rest forwarded to the destination.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how this matter was first discovered?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It was the result of supervision by our officers. If I may point out a specific instance, the Director of R.M.S. visited one of these sorting offices on 27th May 1954 and he found several book-post articles containing these lottery tickets etc. in the course of transmission. He

detected these things and gave suitable directions in the matter.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if any action was taken against persons who tried thus to misuse this privilege of sending book-post?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The only action that we take is that we do not transmit them to the addressees but return them to the senders.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PERMANAND: Is the Government aware that a good many Irish Sweepstake tickets are coming into the country and if so through what source are they coming in and through what source the money is being remitted?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I know there are many firms and individuals who are dealing in this. I do not like to name them here unless the hon. Member wants. We are exercising a great deal of vigilance in this matter and whenever we come across cases we do everything possible to put stop to them. We intercept and do not transmit them to the addressees; that is the action that we take.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know the exact position about these lottery tickets? Are they prohibited from being sold—these Irish Sweepstake tickets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as we are concerned, what we are required to do under the relevant rule is that we will not transmit lottery tickets, circulars, advertisements, communiques etc., relating to lottery tickets. If we detect them we interrupt them and send them back to the sender.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: I want to know whether they are prohibited from being sold in India or not.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That is a question which I cannot reply. That may be addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs.