

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 19th April 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LOCK AND BLOCK INSTRUMENTS

*685. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for fitting lock and block instruments to obviate train collisions in the years 1953 and 1954; and

(b) the extent of loss of human life and damage to property due to train collisions in each of those years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The amounts provided on the extension of the lock and block arrangements were:

1953-54	Rs. 2.89 lakhs.
1954-55	Rs. 7.32 lakhs.

By themselves, the lock and block arrangements do not obviate but minimise the chances of train collisions

(b) Loss of life—

1953-54	83
1954-55	20

Damage to property—

1953-54	Rs. 6.8 lakhs.
1954-55	Rs. 3.67 lakhs.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, what are the other effective measures taken to obviate train collisions apart from these lock and block arrangements?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are the main safety devices. We are doing it on a programmed basis.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, how long it will take to introduce

the lock and block arrangements on all the lines?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It may take a few years.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, what will be the cost involved in providing these lock and block instruments on all lines?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think, Sir, that it has been meticulously calculated, but there is a programme to spend at least Rs. 5 crores on the provision of these safety devices.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has any appreciable result been shown after this system was introduced so far as collisions are concerned?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly, Sir, they are effective. Unless the human element fails, these mechanical devices are quite effective.

ANNAPOORNA DINING CARS

*686. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains to which Annapoorna dining cars are at present attached; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to attach such dining cars in more trains in the near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) An Annapoorna dining car runs on the Delhi-Madras Janata Express once a week in each direction.

(b) No.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has any representation been made for more Annapoorna dining cars to be attached to the trains?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When we say Annapoorna dining car, it means that it has been designed in a

particular way to serve non-cereal food items. That was done in the context existing in those days. But now, Sir, we are having a new design for our restaurant and dining cars according to which we are building these cars.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will not the Annapoorna adjust themselves also to this new system? Will not the people also adjust themselves to this new dining car system?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Perfectly, there would be no difficulty about that.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether there is any difference between the existing "Annapoorna" and other restaurants as far as the food is concerned?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I said about the design of the Annapoorna dining car. There is no difference as to the food.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know, Sir, whether this type of dining car is popular?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. It had a separate counter where the people were served with non-cereal food. The "Annapoorna" people made them very attractive and popularised those items. It was easier to get those items from the counter and in the car there was a counter provided for this purpose, whereas our other general dining cars do not have this counter.

SHRI LALCHAND HIRACHAND DOSHI: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to place on the Table designs showing the difference between the Annapoorna dining car and the old type of dining car?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think, Sir, the hon. Member can profitably make a trip to the Delhi Station and see for himself.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: If it is popular, why should not the Ministry introduce it on other trains also?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, now the distinction between Annapoorna and others remains only in the design of the car and in nothing else. And what I said was we are having new designs for our dining cars and restaurant cars and we are building these new cars according to the improved designs.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is it not much cheaper on the Annapoorna?

(No reply.)

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: May I know, Sir, whether the basis for contract to Annapoorna cars is the same as for others?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, more or less. Subject to correction I say this: we do not get any fee from the Annapoorna.

DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS

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

(a) the amount allotted in the first Five Year Plan for the development of forests in the State of Ajmer;

(b) how much of the above amount has so far been spent on the work;

(c) whether any experiments for desert afforestation have been made in the desert area of the State; and

(d) if so, what results have so far been achieved in that direction?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Rs. 10.62 lakhs.

(b) The information is not readily available and is being collected.

(c) Yes.