

country for internal purposes. We have got it only for external overseas communication service purposes.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES

*774. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Darrang Chamber of Commerce regarding transport difficulties; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken, in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, only in the last week of March 1955.

(b) It is under the active examination of the North-Eastern Railway Administration. In fact, the position covering *inter alia* some of the points raised in the representation, have already been gone into by an *Ad Hoc* Committee of Senior Railway Officers that was appointed in March 1953 for examining conditions of travel and amenities for passengers, etc., on the ex-Assam Railway portion of the North-Eastern Railway and the North-Eastern Railway Administration is taking action to progressively improve the operating and other conditions.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: It is a well-known fact, Sir, that it takes 14 hours to reach a distance of 98 miles and Bombay and Ahmedabad never accept goods for Tezpur due to transport difficulties. In view of that, may I know what steps have been taken to speed up this train?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This train is not very much behind the fastest train on the route. The fastest train, that is the Link Express, takes two hours and nineteen minutes between two points, that is between Rangiya Junction and Pandu whereas this train, takes two hours and forty minutes

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: But the speed is that of a bullock cart, Sir.

NON-PAYMENT OF MINIMUM PRICE FOR SUGARCANE TO CANE GROWERS

*775. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the effect that the management of Pampa River Factory, Pulikeezhu, Travancore-Cochin State has refused to pay the minimum price to the cane growers for sugarcane supplied to that factory; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is it not a fact that the Junior Cane Inspector who was appointed in that locality has been withdrawn by the Government?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not say without notice.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

*776. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of station refreshment rooms on the Eastern and Western Railways which have been taken over or which have been served with notice for being taken over by the Railways since the 15th March 1955;

(b) how many of them (i) are being run or are to be run departmentally; and (ii) are being given to other contractors; and

(c) out of those contractors who are being given contracts for these refreshment rooms how many have other catering contracts on the Railways?