

ORDERS FOR WAGONS AND COACHES

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

(a) whether any orders were placed on indigenous industries and foreign firms for the supply of wagons and coaches in the years 1953 and 1954;

(b) if so, the extent of orders on each industry and firm and the value thereof; and

(c) when the supply of these wagons and coaches is expected to be received by the Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Statements 'A' and 'B' giving the information required are placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 75.]

PROF. G. RANGA: Why is it that the Government of India don't want to revive their earlier scheme of 'Own your wagons' in order to facilitate the augmentation of the supply of wagons?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: A suggestion was made to the Railway Ministry regarding this 'Own your wagons' scheme on the basis of the 'Own your phone' scheme but when this was examined the response from the trade was not sufficient and we thought that there was no justification to give any trial to the scheme. But I may inform the hon. Member that we have increased the indigenous capacity for manufacturing wagons from 6,000 to 7,800 and now it has been put up even to 12,000. We are thinking of still further increasing the capacity.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: What is the present wagon position?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, we have increased the indigenous capacity and we have assured them orders on that basis for a number

of years to come but still, in order to meet the immediate demands, we may have to resort to import both in 1955 and in 1956.

PROF. G. RANGA: Therefore, in view of the fact that Government themselves had considered that scheme to be feasible and useful, why should not the Government allow such of those people as are willing to take advantage of it to place their own wagons at the disposal of the Government to do so in order to facilitate the Government's own supply of wagons?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Government did not think that scheme to be feasible at all but they were prepared to examine the suggestion and it was examined and when it was examined, there were other difficulties also pointed out, into which I need not go now. The response from the other side also was not encouraging. That was what I said. So there was no justification to proceed with the scheme and so it was dropped.

PROF. G. RANGA: If there were to be good enough response, why should not the Government be prepared to consider it on its own merits? That is the import of my suggestion.

(No reply.)

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether it is a fact that the medium-scale industries are not getting ample number of wagons to meet their full requirements?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is a broad question. I don't know how to answer it. If the hon. Member can point out any particular cases, I can try to answer.

SURPLUS STAFF DUE TO AUTOMATISATION OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONES

y-390. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many operators, engineering personnel, class III and class