

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has already said that in his reply.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, whether the fares for third class passengers charged in Russia in Russian Railways are relatively much higher than the charges here?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They seem to be much higher and on the basis of the exchange rate they seem to be equivalent to our second class fare.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Are those rates going to be made applicable to this country?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Is it not a fact, Sir, that decisions have already been taken by the Government on the recommendations made?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: On the first three we have taken a decision and orders to Railway Administrations are under issue. They relate to provision of common exits, allowing third class passengers to use the dining cars and provision of two sets of information services.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Have the Government fixed up the excess that is to be charged for sleeping berths?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: All that is under consideration.

DR. R. P. DUBE: The Minister was pleased to say that the rates in Russia were higher. But what were the facilities available? Were they the same as we have here?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL AT BANNIHAL

*599. SHRI C. P. PARIKH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount quoted in—

(i) the tender submitted by the German firm of Messrs. Baresel and Kunz, and

(ii) the lowest of the tenders submitted by the Indian firms,

for the construction of the Pilot Heading of the Bannihal Tunnel; and

(b) whether Government propose to invite tenders for the second stage of the construction work of the tunnel; if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) (i) Rs. 38.88 lakhs.

(ii) Rs. 43.93 lakhs.

(b) The question is under consideration.

SHRI C. P. PARIKH: Will the Government consider giving a 10 per cent. preference to Indian firms who submit tenders?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the number of tenders received from India and abroad for this work?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Nine tenders were received.

VISITS BY AGRICULTURISTS TO CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

*581. SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI GOVINDA REDDY): Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the recommendations of the Estimates Committee with regard to the providing of facilities to leading agriculturists, Agricultural Graduates and Research workers to visit Central Research Institutes, as contained in paragraph 65 at page 39 of the Seventh Report of that Committee for the year 1953-54; and