

companies for aviation petrol are uniform for foreign and national carriers in India. It is understood that the oil companies allow a rebate of 0-1-9 per gallon to scheduled airlines, 0-1-3 per gallon to non-scheduled airlines and 0-0-6 per gallon to Flying Clubs.

DEPARTMENTAL CATERING ON THE RAILWAYS

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

(a) whether the Railway Administration propose to entrust catering arrangements on the Eastern and Southern Railway zones to private contractors in the coming year; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for continuing the departmental catering on these two railway zones at a loss?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) On the Eastern and Southern Railway Zones a number of catering establishments are being already managed by catering contractors, in addition to some dining cars, restaurants and refreshment rooms, etc., which are being run departmentally.

There is no proposal to entrust the latter to private contractors.

(b) The question of departmental catering *versus* contract system is at present under examination by the Committee on Catering headed by the Deputy Minister and further action will be taken in the light of the result of this examination.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF TRANSPORT

119. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport met during the year 1953; and

(b) what work was transacted in each meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) 13.

(b) At each meeting the Committee reviewed the extent of fulfilment of transport demands in the previous month and took decisions on the steps necessary to remove bottlenecks, if any, in achieving movement targets of essential commodities.

PRE-PARTITION RAILWAY ACCOUNTS

120. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pre-partition Railway Accounts for the period 1st April 1947 to 13th August 1947 have since been closed;

(b) whether the post-partition figures of balances of non-revenue items have since been arrived at; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the particular non-revenue figures which are yet to be arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No.

(b) Pending final closing of pre-partition accounts the balances have been adopted provisionally, where necessary.

(c) Final balances under all non-revenue heads have still to be worked out.

INVESTMENT OF THE ACCUMULATIONS IN THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND

121. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Unstarred Question No. 70 on the 1st September, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the cash accumulations out of the total accumulations of Rs. 1,22,83,819 in the Employees' Provident Fund have not yet been invested in profit bearing securities; and