

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I am sorry, Sir, I have not got it.

NON-STOPPING OF MADRAS-BOMBAY
MAIL AT GOOTY

†*516. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bombay-bound Madras-Bombay Mail was not stopped at Gooty station on the 19th March 1954, and if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes, so that about 400 ticketless passengers, who were travelling by No. 425 Madras-Raichur Passenger, which was detained at Gooty, did not have an opportunity of boarding the Mail train.

DISCONTINUANCE OF BEZWADA-KURNOOL
EXPRESS

†*522. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bezwada-Kurnool Express, train service was discontinued in the third week of March, 1954, and if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Yes, from 21st March 1954 to 26th March 1954. The temporary cancellation of the Bezwada-Kurnool Express trains was one of the steps taken to prevent ticketless travelling, which according to the information of the Railway was to be resorted to on a mass scale on that section during that period.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that long before that period there was a proposal before the Government to cancel the running of this train?

†Questions Nos. 516 and 522 were permitted by the Chair to be put together.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not at all, Sir. The Railways are not willing to forego any revenue. In fact, it was a battle of wits between the Railway authorities and these ticketless travellers who are robbing the Government.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that even the ticket holders were not allowed to get into the train?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It was a gang of about 400 people under definite leadership, and I am sorry to say that most of them were sympathisers of the party of my hon. friend. They were determined to board the mail train which was to take them to Guntakal, and so the mail train was not stopped at Gooty.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that the Government, in order to prevent the kisans from representing their grievances to the Andhra Government, issued instructions to the Railway authorities not to run trains from Bezwada to Guntakal on that line on that day?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As far as instructions are concerned, nobody issued instructions that ticketless travellers should be carried in this train.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: My question is not with regard to ticketless travellers. My question is whether on that day when the kisans wanted to go and represent their grievances to the Andhra Government—whether they purchased tickets or not is a different question—the Government issued instructions to the Railway authorities that they should not run trains on that day to that particular station?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It was not so, Sir. Again, a prominent member of my hon. friend's party gave an undertaking that he would buy tickets for about 300 people, and on that assurance they were allowed to board the train. But I have got a number of incidents which occurred at