

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

various places, where about a hundred—and even more—people wanted to board the train. I can read the whole thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does the Government deny that it has issued such instructions to the Railway authorities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is that you say that the train was run through to prevent ticketless travellers from boarding it. He suggests that it was done to prevent kisans from making representations to the Government of Andhra. You are worried about ticketless travelling. He is worried about representations to the Andhra Government. On what grounds were the instructions given?—he asks.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No instructions were given. The police received information that they were going to fill a whole carriage with ticketless travellers. Hence the mail train was not stopped. In fact, the Railway authorities and the Police were helpless, and the only way of preventing these ticketless travellers from boarding the train was to run the train through.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Was it not well known that even before this case organised attempts were being made by some people to travel without tickets?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. That was the information that the Police received, and they passed on the information to the Railway officials. Because of that, trains on this section were stopped between 21st March 1954 and 26th March 1954.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Was the cancellation resorted to as a measure of law and order?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, certainly.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that the organisers of the march gave an undertaking to the railway authorities there that they would pay for all the kisans travelling without tickets?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is a novel procedure for anyone to give an undertaking like that. I should like the House to consider whether such a procedure is at all admissible.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that in every compartment special armed police was posted on that day to check up whether anybody was travelling without tickets?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It would have been very well justified if such thing had happened.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether it was done or not.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I don't have the information. If it had been done, it was certainly justified.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If you have armed police to check up whether anybody is travelling with tickets or without tickets, why was it necessary to stop the train?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alagesan, if you get the cooperation of the Opposition, you will not stop the train.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I perfectly agree with you, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It was a concerted conspiracy to prevent the kisans from travelling.

RAILWAY RESTAURANTS

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

(a) the profit made by the Southern Railway from the railway restaurants at railway stations in the year 1952-53; and