

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

(b) how many of these restaurants are run by—

- (i) that Railway directly; and
- (ii) private persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The hon. Member presumably has in mind certain refreshment rooms run departmentally by the Southern Railway. There was a loss of Rs. 5,99,938 on these departmentally run catering establishments during 1952-53. So far as other refreshment rooms and restaurants are concerned, as they are operated by contractors, the question of the Railway making a profit or otherwise does not arise.

(b) (i) Run by Railway directly—43 refreshment rooms.

(ii) Run by private persons on contract under the licensing system—47 restaurants and 63 refreshment rooms.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it only on these two Railways, viz., the Southern and Eastern Railways, that the Government is running these establishments and not on the other Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, that is so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: With regard to the other Railways, is the Government making some profits by giving the restaurants to private contractors?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, it is not a question of making profits. It is a license fee which is intended to cover rent and other things.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: If that is so, what are the reasons for Government incurring loss and yet running it on Government level in these Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The departmental catering especially in the Southern Railway has been very much appreciated by the public. It has

been in vogue since the year 1925. So, as a matter of passenger amenity, it is desirable to continue it even though we incur losses; but we are taking measures to bring down the losses.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the fare which you charge to private caterers to run their bogies from one railway station to another railway station? You are allowing private contractors to run catering bogies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about restaurant cars and the question refers to refreshment rooms and restaurants in the stations.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Both are combined. The same Ishwardas Vallabh Das runs the restaurants in the stations and also takes advantage of the railway bogies. As such what does Government charge for these railway bogies to private caterers? Do they charge anything at all or is it free?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The dining cars are placed at the disposal of the contractors who undertake to cater to the passengers on the train and nothing is charged to them. It has been given to them as a matter of passenger amenity and nothing is charged to the contractors.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: But are Government checking the profits of these contractors when they supply free bogies in the interests of passengers?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Income-tax authorities are there to do it.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: They have nothing to do with this. They will only take some portion of it as income-tax. When you provide bogies in the interests of passenger amenity, is it not the duty of Government to see that these caterers who get these facilities don't charge the passengers excessive rates and make huge profits?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The schedule of rates is approved by the Railway Administration and they are asked to charge only that much and not more when they supply food to the passengers and that is the scrutiny that is exercised.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Do the Government also give the restaurants at the stations rooms free of charge?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They are charged a licence fee.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What is the licence fee they are charged as against the rent that would come if normally those rooms are leased?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I would like to know what he has in mind.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: What I have in mind is very clear.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: May be to the hon. Member.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: I would like to inform the hon. the Deputy Minister for Railways what I have in mind. The Government is pampering the private caterers and is giving them restaurant rooms, free bogies, etc.....

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Is it a question?

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: As such, are Government justified in giving it? If not, what steps do they propose to take to prevent this abuse?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an opinion.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is all done in the interests of the travelling public.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What are the licence fees charged for the different varieties of catering?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like to have notice of it.

SHRI K. MADHAVA MENON: If the contractors are not charged, on what basis are they selected?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Most of them have been there for a long time. It is their experience in the line that counts with the administration in selecting these people.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Why is it that Government are conducting these restaurant cars and catering in the Southern Railway alone?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have departmental catering on the Southern Railway and on the Eastern Railway.

TAMPERING WITH RAILWAY TRACKS

*518. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state the name of the railway zone where tampering with railway tracks had been most frequent in the years 1951-52, 1952-33 and 1953-54?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Central Railway.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Have the Railways been given any suggestions as to what to do to see that these tamperings do not occur in the Railways?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Patrolling by Railway officials, by motor or push trolley, by police patrols, foot patrolling by the railway staff—these are done in the affected sections.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are they being implemented?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes. We are taking all these steps.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that the presumption?—he wishes to know.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are actually doing it.