

what happens to Railway property under such circumstances. I should think the Railway authorities took the wisest decision under the circumstances possible and moved the train and as I said I am glad that there was no untoward incident.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know whether tickets were issued to all these passengers or whether they were merely having a joy ride on the train?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They were not in such a joyous mood, because the trains were delayed for hours together owing to various causes. There was a meeting between the Railway officials and the Air Headquarters people who were arranging the show and it was roughly estimated that the number of passengers that would be going to Tilpat would be about 12,000. But actually the number was more than double. There was such a heavy rush; the members of the House are also aware of it. Many of them have gone and experienced what it was.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: My question was whether tickets were issued to them.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: My information is that tickets were issued to about 20,000 and odd people.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know why so many tickets were issued beyond the capacity of the trains?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you issued so many tickets were you not encouraging them to travel and when you did not protest were you not an accomplice in that?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is only a question of the stage at which we will incur the displeasure—either at the stage of not issuing the tickets or at the stage of having issued the tickets, and allowing them to travel.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The hon. Minister has said that the Government is discouraging travel on foot-boards of the Railways. May I know whether the Government is conscious that the only way of preventing it is by increasing the number of coaches for the third class passengers and by reducing the air-conditioned coaches which go almost empty?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And improving the morale of the people?

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Are there any accidents reported in this connection?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Fortunately, no.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: What were the reasons that the special train which was to leave Faridabad at 11-30 left at 1-30, after two hours, and thousands of people assembled there had to get into the trains and also over the trains?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This is because many other trains were delayed on the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION FOR ANDHRA

*422. **SHRI PRASADARAO:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Andhra Government for starting a central agricultural research station in Andhra; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.