

this loan from the Company whose financial condition does not appear to be satisfactory?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We cannot be taking over all the Railways.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That I know; that is a different question. I should like to know the reasons—if that is not the only one—that have stood in the way of this Railway being taken over in spite of the recommendation of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is, of course, true that the West Bengal Government desires that we should construct a broad-gauge line but I do not know whether they have recommended that we should take over this particular Railway as such, because it will be very uneconomical to take over these small narrow gauge lines which are not at all paying and which are in a very bad way.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I point out that the answer is unsatisfactory to this extent that the hon. Minister is not aware of the recommendations of the West Bengal Government? If the West Bengal Government has not recommended that this should be taken over, he should say so, and if they have recommended I should like to know why it is not being done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His point is that the West Bengal Government have made a recommendation that a broad-gauge line should be constructed there. Till that is constructed the present Railway will have to work under the Directorate which has been set up.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That was not his answer, Sir. His answer was that he was not aware whether the West Bengal Government have recommended that it should be taken over.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In fact the Chief Minister of West Bengal has been discussing this question with the Railway Board and various suggestions have been put forward. The whole thing is under examination.

9 C.S.D.

SHRI B. C. GHOSH: Is the hon. Minister aware that this matter has been hanging fire over two or three years now and the West Bengal Government had assured that they had recommended that this Railway should be taken over by the Centre and that the matter was under negotiation? We should like to know at what stage this negotiation stands today.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like to inform the hon. Member and the House that the Chief Minister and the West Bengal Government also appreciate the difficulties that we have put to them.

CENSUS OF LAND HOLDINGS

*432. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the census of land holdings as recommended by the Planning Commission was completed during the year 1953;

(b) if not, what is the cause of the delay; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government will lay a copy of the census report on the Table of the Council?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No.

(b) The State Governments were addressed on the subject and their comments have been invited. The matter will be finalized on receipt of comments from the State Governments which are still awaited.

(c) Does not arise.

9 A.M.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: When was this matter referred to the State Governments?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: On the 8th January 1954.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know why it was not done earlier since the Planning Commission wanted that this should be completed before the end of 1953?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The matter is not so simple as the hon. Member imagines.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: If it was not so simple as even to refer to the State Governments, may I know what was the complexity of the whole thing?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: If the hon. Member refers to Notification No. F.5-27/53-BC/2, he will understand the difficulty.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, what are these strokes and dashes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The strokes and clashes are not intended for you.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is there any time limit within which they propose to complete the census?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We are anxious to complete it as early as possible.

TRAIN SERVICE TO FARIDAEAD FOR I.A.F. DISPLAY

*423. DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that on the 28th of March 1954 many people going to Faridabad by trains for seeing the Indian Air Force display at Tilpat, and coming back therefrom travelled on roofs of railway carriages and even on rods beneath the carriages;

(b) if so, whether this was done with the permission of the railway authorities;

(c) whether Government propose to stop such practices in future; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, when appropriate instructions in this regard are going to be issued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A number of passengers are reported to have travelled on the foot-boards, roofs of railway carriages, etc., on this occasion.

(b) No.

(c) Government have for some time been taking necessary measures to discourage such practices and will tighten up the measures to the fullest extent possible. In the present case, however, unforeseen rush of passengers upset all calculations and arrangements.

(d) Railways already have detailed instructions in the matter. In fact, travelling on foot-boards, roofs of carriages and other unauthorised places is an offence under section 118(2) of the Indian Railways' Act.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Since the answer to (b) is 'No', may I ask whether, when the Railway authorities knew that so many passengers were actually travelling on the top of the train and they were actually seeing them, if the permission was not express, it was not at any rate implied?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Of course, the hon. Member is welcome to the inference he makes, but the occasion was such that a few Railway officials could not do anything. There were thousands of passengers. In fact, I had occasion to see the train myself. No part of the train was visible from outside. People were all over the train. In fact, I am glad that there was no untoward incident.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Was it not proper in those circumstances to see that the train did not move out from the station?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know if the hon. Member himself would take such a risk. We know