

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 1st December 1953

The Council met at half past one of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

SHRI A. BALARAMA REDDY (An-dhra).

SHRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU (Andhra).

SHRI N. PRASADA RAO (Andhra).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS ON THE HOWRAH-DELHI TRAINS

♦103. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the present caterers on the trains running between Howrah and Delhi were first appointed;

(b) whether the Railway Administration calls for tenders for the appointment of caterers on these trains every year;

(c) if so, when the last tenders were called for;

(d) the number of contractors who submitted their tenders; and

(e) the reasons for which the present caterers were appointed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Such contracts are not let out on tender basis.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) These contractors were appointed in view of their experience and standing in this line of business.

100 CS.D.

Statement

The present caterers were first appointed in trains running between Howrah and Delhi as shown below: —

(i) *Western style Dining Car on the Howrah-Delhi Mail*.—Messrs. G. F. Kellner & Co. Ltd. have been running the contract for many years. The exact date of their first appointment is not available.

(ii) *Indian style Dining Car on Toojan Express*. Messrs. Ballabhadas Agrawal were first appointed in 1938.

SHRI B. RATH: May I know whether there is any rule that these caterers should be appointed after inviting tenders?

SHRI O. V. AL AGES AN: I just said that these contracts are not let out on tender basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether there is any rule requiring you to ask for tenders.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There is no such rule.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it not a fact that because of these contractors being there in the Railway for a large number of years they do not look to the comforts of the passengers and the food supplied in the dining cars is deteriorating year by year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it not a fact that in the Grand Trunk Express the dining car provides meals at the rate of Rs. 1/8 whereas the same meals could be had for ten annas to twelve annas on the Southern Railway?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not know the exact rate. But this question relates to the Eastern Railway.

KHWAJA IN AIT ULLAH: Are there any other kind of contractors in the