

(b) The matter is under consideration.

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION ON TRAINS
DUE TO ABOLITION OF FIRST CLASS
TRAVEL**

***177. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what seatwise accommodation has become available in other classes on those trains from which first class accommodation has been withdrawn since October 1953; and

(b) the manner in which those first class coaches are being utilised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). The information required is not readily available but generally they have been downgraded to second class.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know what was the object of abolishing the first class? Was it for the purpose of giving more accommodation for the second class or the third class passengers?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, is it not too late in the day to question now the abolition of the first class? It was fully discussed in the House.

PROF. G. RANGA: He makes a distinction between providing additional accommodation to second class passengers and third class passengers. What is it that you aimed at and what is it that you have achieved?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The first class coaches have been generally downgraded to second class. The second class seats have thus increased. But where there has been serious overcrowding in third class coaches, more seating capacity for third class passengers has been provided.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: What about the first class that was abolished?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The first class coaches cannot be used as third class coaches.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know the effect on income as a result of the abolition of first class?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It has increased. I do not know how. The figures for the month of October show that the income has been more than what it was in the month of September.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know when first class will be abolished in other trains also?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: It is difficult to fix any date, but we want to withdraw it as early as possible.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: It was mentioned that the first class was downgraded to second class. Is it with respect to comfort or only fares?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Only with reference to fares.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: May I know if it is the intention of Government after the abolition of the first class to raise the fare of the second class to that of the first class?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We will consider that.

T.B. SEALS SALES CAMPAIGN

***178. SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM:** Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected under the T. B. Seals Sales Campaign since it was started; and

(b) how much out of this collection has been spent in starting new T. B. hospitals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR): (a) The collections so far realised from the first, second and

third T. B. Seals Sale Campaigns amount to about Rs. 25,10,000. To this may be added the total value of newspaper space donations amounting to about Rs. 2,37,000. The fourth campaign was launched on the 2nd October 1953 and returns for the same are not yet available.

(b) 94 per cent. of the cash collections is returned to the respective States for their anti-tuberculosis work and only 6 per cent. is retained by the Tuberculosis Association of India for activities of an all-India nature. No information is available as to how much money has been allocated or spent by the various States for starting new T. B. hospitals.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM: Is the hon. Minister aware that on account of the limited number of beds in these T. B. hospitals, patients have to undergo a lot of difficulties in getting beds?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: We are aware of this.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM: May I know the number of patients on the waiting list?

(No reply.)

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: How much money out of this fund was given to U.P.?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: I said in my answer that 94 per cent. of the States collections were returned to the States.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: In respect of these hospitals which are to be started with the help of this fund, who is going to bear the recurring expenditure? Is it the State or the T.B. Association?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: The States, Sir.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM: May I know whether the Government has received any scheme to start camp hospitals for T.B. patients?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: Not that I know of.

CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTS OF THE BRIDGE AT MOKAMEHGhat

*174. SHRI H. C. MATHUR (ON BEHALF OF SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO): Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a resident audit party will be stationed at Mokamehghat to audit the construction accounts of the proposed bridge on the Ganges;

(b) whether the cost of the bridge will be fully met from capital, or partly from capital and partly from the development fund; and

(c) the approximate pre-war cost of construction of this bridge?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer is already in position at Mokameh and it is expected that an Audit Officer would be placed for test audit in due course.

(b) According to the preliminary investigations made, the cost of the bridge is likely to be charged partly to Capital and partly to Development Fund.

(c) The costs at pre-war rates have not been worked out but these would probably have been of the order of Rs. 3½ crores for the bridge and Rs. 6½ crores for the project.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the total estimated cost and what part of it is to be spent on the material to be imported?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The total estimated cost is about Rs. 16 crores. It will be a road-cum-rail bridge. What is the other part of the question, please?

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What part of this amount is to be spent on material to be imported?