

*440. [The questioner (Shri Prasadarao) was absent. For answer vide column 317? infra.]

RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION IN TRAINS FROM INTERMEDIATE STATIONS

*441. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken to remove the existing ban on reservation of accommodation in trains from intermediate stations; if so, what are these steps?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Facilities for reservation in 1st and 2nd class from intermediate stations are at present provided in respect of mail, express and some important trains.

It is not possible to provide the facility of reserving seats in 3rd and inter classes from intermediate stations in the present state of traffic.

Arrangements are, however, in existence for reservation of seats in 3rd and inter classes for long distance passengers at train starting stations in respect of important trains. Separate compartments for such passengers are also provided on some trains.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Does the Government know, Sir, that even if a week's notice is given in advance second class and first class reservations are not being made and no reply is also given?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If the hon. Member brings any specific case to my attention, I will certainly look into it.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS INDUSTRY

*442. SHRI CHANNA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government propose to sponsor any scheme to assist industries manufacturing modern agricultural implements with a view to

making the use of these implements economical and popular?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): Yes.

STEPS TAKEN TO CHECK THE ADVANCE OF RAJASTHAN DESERT

t*194-A. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken during each year of the Five Year Plan period to check the advance of Rajasthan desert?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Rajasthan Desert Afforestation Research Station was set up at Jodhpur in 1952-53 and the expenditure thereon is proposed as under: —

Rs. (lakhs)

1952-530-70
1953-544-10
1954-554-10
1955-564-10

TOTAL .. 13; 00

2. The work done so far is given below:

- I. *Experiments.*— (a) Study of the silviculture of indigenous species suitable for afforestation.
- (b) Experiments on root and shoot cuttings and transplants and results.
- (c) Experiments with seeds of 86 species from other parts of India and from abroad.

fPostponed from the list of Un-starred Questions admitted for the 14th December 1953.