

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : Where the necessary rolling stock is available Railways will consider the running of such special trains.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: That is an indefinite reply Sir. I would like to know when.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not so indefinite. The Railways have been asked to consider the running of such trains as soon as the position regarding coaches improves. When extra coaches are available, they will certainly run these special trains.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: The answer still, I submit, Sir, remains indefinite. Will it be this year or the next year? This everybody would like to know.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Even this year, if there are sufficient coaches for running them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: When is the position as regards coaches likely to improve?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is a rather indefinite question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: This being the.....

SHRIMATI SHARD A BHARGAVA: Does it.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, don't quarrel with another lady. Shrimati Sharda Bhargava.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: Does it mean that if the coaches are not available for some years we will not have these trains for some years to come?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It may not take such a long time as the hon. lady Member thinks. These trains were running in the olden days and there were also concessions with regard to fares and more liberal accommodation was also provided. We cannot provide

this liberal accommodation now. When the coaches are available we will run them again. There is no ban on them. There was a ban, but now there is no 'ban'; it has been lifted and the Railways, as I have said, have been asked to consider this matter.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: How does.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: How does..... yes.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: How is it that Government have been able to arrange for coaches for the sake of the Railway Exhibition, to run throughout India and they would not find sufficient number of coaches for this purpose?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly,, we consider the exhibition much more important.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: This being the centenary year of the Railways, will this not be the most appropriate year to make this beginning?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are making a beginning.

EXPORT OF POTATO FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH

*587. SRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

' (a) whether export of potato from Himachal Pradesh has been banned; and

(b) if so, what has been the effect of the ban on the agricultural population?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). To preserve quality of Himachal Pradesh Seed Potatoes used throughout the country for potato cultivation, and also to prevent exploitation of cultivators by dealers, the State Government promulgated the Himachal Pradesh Seed Potato Control Order, 1952 on the 16th

October, 1952. Under the Order, exports of Seed potatoes from the State were regulated through a Co-operative Society. This was followed by protests from dealers and the Punjab Government. The Order was withdrawn on the 6th December, 1952, when the season was over and the demand for seed potatoes had ceased. The agricultural population in the State did not suffer; in fact, their exploitation at the hands of dealers was prevented.

PROF. G. RANGA: Do Government

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Rath.

SHRI B. RATH: Let him put his question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI B. RATH: Is it a fact that the cultivators in Kufri, Mahasu and Nar-j kanda made representations objecting to the imposition of this export ban on potatoes?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No. The agriculturists did not protest against it; only these middle-men, the small-dealers who exploited the hillmen who grew the potatoes, they protested. The hillmen who grew the potatoes and brought them from heights of 7,000 and 9,000 feet on mule-backs to Simla and other places, as they could not take the potatoes back, they were being exploited by these dealers and merchants. I was the arbitrator in this case and though I saw a number of these people, I did not find any agriculturist being against this order. It was only the small dealer who was against it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The petty bourgeoisie was against it.

SHRI R. RATH: Is it a fact that when the Minister visited the place in October, when he visited Himachal Pradesh in October he did not visit these places that I have mentioned and as such he could not contact those cultivators and know their plight?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I did **not** go to those places, but the representatives from those different areas came to me.

SHRI B. RATH: What steps have Government taken to re-organise this so-called Kailas Co-operative Society which is functioning under their guidance?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The thing is, we have asked the Himachal Pradesh Government to re-organise the whole co-operative movement; and as this potato forms the major money-crop there, it has to be properly managed and helped through co-operative societies. And the reorganisation has to be done from the bottom instead of from the top. So we have asked for the formation of a number of primary societies in the beginning, spread out through out the potato-growing areas. They have to enroll the agriculturists themselves and these primary societies will have to form the central society which will have to be in charge of this export of seed-potatoes.

SHRI B. RATH: What action has been taken or what action is proposed to be

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Prof. Ranga..

PROF. G. RANGA: Have Government satisfied themselves that the prices given by the co-operative society or the Himachal Pradesh Government are remunerative?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Yes, Formerly, that is to say, before this, the *Arhtis* paid the growers only about Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per maund though they used to sell it outside at about Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per maund. Now they are paid about Rs. 20 per maund. This seed potato is a very delicate thing and if not properly looked after there was every chance for malpractices being practised. The merchants who brought it down to Kalka and other places mixed it up with table potatoes and then used to supply it to the whole of India and

PROF. G. RANGA: That will do, agreed, agreed.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: Is there any arrangement in Himachal Pradesh for the preservation of these potatoes in cold storage and if not, do the Central Government propose to give financial assistance to the Himachal Pradesh Government to establish one big cold storage where the potatoes can be preserved?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is perhaps the major idea of the Himachal Pradesh Government. They are introducing a Bill in their Assembly and they are taking up special powers so that they may be able to organise the whole thing in a proper manner and we are prepared to give them any help either financially or otherwise.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: Is the Government aware that the potato growers of Himachal Pradesh received the highest price for their Phoot and Ration potatoes last year?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Yes. They receive Rs. 20 per maund whereas they used to get Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 earlier.

POST AND TELEGRAPH GUIDE

*588. SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Post and Telegraph Guide is published annually, and, if not, what is the year of its latest issue;

(b) whether all the Post Offices are provided with the latest issue of the Guide; and, if so, what is the number of copies so supplied; and

(c) how many copies of the Guide were sold to the public in the year 1952-53?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Till 1946 the P. & T. Guide was being published annually. Since then it has been brought out once in two

years. The latest edition is that of June 1952. Part I of that edition has been published, but Part II is still under print.

(b) Yes, to all Head and Sub-Post Offices whose number on 31st March 1953 was 8,623.

(c) Number of copies sold to the public in 1952-53:

Part I	...	2,479
Part II	...	1,415

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: What is the cost for each guide?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I cannot give it from memory. The total cost to the Department comes to Rs. 2 lakhs.

PROF. G. RANGA: Sale price per copy?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I don't know the sale price per copy. The total cost to the Department is Rs. 2 lakhs.-

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Is it a fact that even the Delhi Post Offices are using the 1950 editions still?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They use the edition which has been published recently in June 1952. Part II is still under print and so they must be using the 1950 edition for Part II.

श्री जसपतराय कपूर : क्या उप मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि पोस्ट और टेलीग्राफ गाइड हिन्दी में छपती है या नहीं? यदि नहीं तो क्या मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार इस और कोई कदम शीघ्र ही उठाने जा रही है।

{SHRI J. R. KAPOOR: Will the hon. Deputy Minister be pleased to state whether the Post and Telegraph Guide is published in Hindi? If not, will he kindly tell us whether Government intends to take early steps in the matter?}

†English translation.