

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, with regard to Rev. Michael, it has been given that his special subject is Education. Has he come here to learn anything about co-operative movement in this country or has he come here to deliver any lectures on Education in which he has specialised?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: As has been mentioned in the reply, this is a study tour and the gentlemen are experts in these various subjects. They wanted to study the conditions in India with regard to their interests and that was the purpose of their visit.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: We study from them and they study from us. I suppose?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, that is so.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know why these Canadians were chosen to make a study tour of India?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They were not chosen. They requested us whether they would be permitted to come here and go round the country and we accepted their request. We never invited them.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

*309. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of cases of ticketless travelling on the ex-Assam Railway section of the North Eastern Railway during the years 1950, 1951, and 1952?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The number of cases of ticketless travelling detected on the ex-Assam Railway section of the North Eastern Railway during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952 has been 4,46,814, 4,27,089 and 3,91,584 respectively.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Is it a fact that at small stations the coun-

ters are not opened in time as a result of which passengers are forced to travel without tickets, especially on market days?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We do not have any such information. Since this has been brought to our notice, we shall see that they are opened at proper time.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: What is the proportion of detected ticketless travellers to the total number of ticketless travellers?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have the information. All these were detected ticketless travellers.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: From the answer, am I to infer that most people travel without tickets?

(No reply.)

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the machinery which the Government employed for counting all these people who travelled without tickets during these three years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, our checking staff catch people without tickets, and they are taken as part of the ticketless travellers.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether Government has received a representation from the All India Ticketless Travellers' Association that special trains may be run for them in commemoration of the Railway Centenary? (Laughter).

(No reply.)

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: When the checking staff found people travelling without tickets, did they not realise excess fares from these passengers? In that case is it not a fact that people who paid for their journey are not to be classified as ticketless travellers?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are detected ticketless travellers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have no count of undetected ones.

MALPRACTICES IN TEZPUR-BALIPARA SECTION OF THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

*310. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passenger earnings of the Tezpur-Balipara section of the North Eastern Railway have decreased considerably since it was taken over by the Railway Board; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of ticket-checkers on this line is insufficient?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) While there have been fluctuations in traffic, it is not possible to say whether there has been a decrease or not in passenger earnings in this case.

(b) This is not our information; but the Hon'ble Member is aware that a Committee is examining travel conditions on the Assam section of the North Eastern Railway and can be expected to report on this particular matter also.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Is it not a fact that for more than a month tickets were not issued in that section?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We do not have any such information.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will enquiries be made?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly, we shall make enquiries.

ASSISTANCE FROM F.A.O. EXPERTS

*311. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and particulars of the Food and Agriculture Organisation experts assisting the Ministry;

(b) the kind of work in which they are assisting; and

(c) what are the recommendations or suggestions made by them for the improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 140.]

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Are these experts invited by the Government of India or are they sent under the auspices of any other organisation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Whenever we feel that any expert is necessary we try to find out and if a proper person is found, we invite him. Sometimes for research work and other things, it is pointed out that some experts are available. If we decide to take advantage of them, we do.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Are they invited on a contract basis with lump sum grants as their remuneration or are they given salaries?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In most of these cases we obtain them from the various international agencies and States and we are hardly ever required to pay any salary.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the minimum and maximum period of their stay here?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It varies between six months to about two years. In most cases it is about a year.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: The first three experts are experts in artificial insemination. Were three experts required to work in this field?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have undertaken this activity only recently and as my hon. friend knows, the cattle population in India is so large