

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