

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I do not know,'

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : What is the number of workers employed by these 49 factories producing vanaspati ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I want notice of the question.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA : What does the hon. Minister use himself ? Vanaspati or pure ghee ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

TEA STALLS AND RESTAURANTS ON RAILWAY STATIONS

♦258. SHRI D. NARAYAN : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether separate tea stalls and restaurants for Hindus and Muslims are still maintained at important railway stations ; if so; why ;

(b) at how many stations in India this differentiation continues and whether Government propose to abolish it; if so, when ; and

(c) whether any Harijans are running these stalls at some stations ; if so, at which stations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) ■ Contracts are awarded on a non-communal basis and no community-wise statistics in respect of contractors are, therefore, maintained. The information sought is, therefore, not available.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Are there no shops on this basis on the stations at Kalyanj Bhusaval and Manmad ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Now they have been designated as ; vegetarian and non* vegetarian refreshment rooms.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : Is it necessary that non-vegetarian shops should be given to Muslims alone ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : That is not the policy.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : Is it a fact that the restaurant contractors were Muslims and they migrated to Pakistan, and still their contract is continued ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I am not aware of any particular instance. If it is brought to our notice and if it is irregular, it can be rectified.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE : Am I to understand that the Government will take steps if any information is supplied to them in this respect ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I have given that assurance already.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Taking into consideration the religious feelings of Indians, have the restaurants serving non-vegetarian food been given strict orders not to use beef and jhatka meat ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I am sorry I do not know these varieties of meat, but if they are objectionable from the religious point of view, the matter will be considered.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : The hon. Minister does not know the varieties of meat, but it is a fact that Indians, especially Hindus and Muslims, never use beef and jhatka meat. Has the Government given necessary orders, to the restaurants ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I do not think there is any such instance..

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : " There are. Will the Government issue necessary orders ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Of course..

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Is the Minister a vegetarian or a non-vegetarian?*