

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I thought the hon. Member knew it.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : I was wanting to know.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I shall let him know.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : How do the cost of production and durability of the locomotives and railway coaches compare with those of foreign countries ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I think they are quite good.

RAILWAY CONCESSION FOR ARTISTES

*2i. SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal before Government to grant railway concessions to stage and music artistes j.

(b) whether Government have received any representations regarding this ;

(c) if the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, what action Government have taken on those representations and when a decision in this matter is expected to be reached ; and

{d} whether Government propose to grant railway concessions to other needy groups, such as Government employees, teachers and students ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Government have recently examined this matter and propose to review it again some time later.

(*) Yes.

(c) While it has not been found possible to revive the pre-war rail concessions for stage and music artistes, these have been allowed in specific cases on merits on an *ad hoc* basis.

(d) Concession in rail fares is already admissible to students of recognised institutions under certain conditions. One teacher or professor per party of

ten students, travelling for educational purposes only, is also allowed the same concession. The question of granting concession to teachers as such, travelling on their own, is under examination. It is not proposed to allow any rail concession to Government employees as such, except Railway employees, who are already allowed a limited number of free passes and P. T. O.s.

II A.M.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know what is the principle which is adopted by Government to grant such concessions to artistes ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The matter was examined when it was raised by an hon. Member of this House and his company was also given this concession. There are three other companies who have also got this concession.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : What I want to know is the principle adopted by Government in deciding who should get this and who should not.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The principle can be understood by seeing that one of the companies want to give their performance in Kashmir.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : We wanted to know the principle.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Discretion of the officers concerned.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : I request the Chair to repeat the question to the Minister. There is no proper answer to my question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know from what parties the representations have been received by Government ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Several artistes associations have made representation that the pre-war rail concession should be revived.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the Government considering the issue of weekend tickets on concession rates ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Not now.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the present traffic in the Railways as much as it was before ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I am afraid it is falling.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Do you think Government should give more concession to teachers ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have not reached the stage when we can give concessions.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Is there any chance of the general public getting the concessions as were available to them previously ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Not yet.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Do Government think it proper to give concession to social workers like students ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has answered.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS

*22. SHRI B. RATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of American agricultural technicians in India was held in connection with the Community Projects Scheme ;

(b) what was the purpose of holding such a meeting ;

(c) (i) the names of the American technicians who participated in the meeting ; (ii) what was the period of stay of each of them in India ; (iii) what was the work done by the technicians during their stay in India ; and (iv) what are their experiences of the local conditions in India ;

(d) whether Government of India participated in this meeting ; if so, who represented them ;

(e) whether Indian agricultural technicians were also invited to give their opinions before that meeting ; and

(f) whether Government propose to lay on the Table a report of the meeting and its decisions ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P.S. DESHMUKH) : (a) Yes.

(b) The meeting was held in order to enable these extension workers to discuss the programme contemplated and to determine ways and means whereby their work can be improved.

(c) A statement giving the names of the thirty-seven American agricultural technicians who attended the meeting together with the approximate dates of their arrival in India and the period of their assignment is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 2.] Their work is to render technical advice in agricultural matters generally and extension work in particular. Information about their experiences of the local conditions in India is not yet available.

(d) and (e). Yes. Shri Vishnu Sahay, Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Dr. B. N. Uppal, Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India, Shri S. K. Dey, Administrator, Community Projects Administration and Shri A. D. Bhora, Deputy Director, Community Projects Administration attended the meeting.

(f) A copy of the minutes of the meeting is available in the Library of the House.

SHRI B. RATH : Arising out of (e) who were the Indian agricultural technicians and how many of them attended this meeting ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If the hon. Member wants the whole list I can give him.

SHRI B. RATH: How many attended ?