

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 ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : About seven, I believe.

SHRI B. RATH : Was the Government of India informed before this meeting was held ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Who is bearing the expenses of the technicians ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : TCA.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Do American technicians advise the purchase of American machinery for the agricultural improvement of India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't think that arises out of this.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is there need for more technicians in India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't think that also can arise out of this question.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA : What is the advantage estimated to be derived by these meetings ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a hypothetical question. Next question.

SHRI B. GUPTA : May I know whether it is.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are late Mr. Gupta, I have called the next question.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINES

♦23. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schemes for the electrification of any railway lines, or for the extension of the existing electric lines ;

(b) if so, which are the lines for which such schemes are contemplated, and when the work on them will be taken up ;

(c) whether any representations have been received from the public in this regard ; and, if so, what these representations are ; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take on such public representations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Igatpuri to Bhusawal on the Central Railway and Tambaram to Chingleput on the Southern Railway. The schemes are under examination, but their implementation will depend upon the availability of funds.

(c) and (d). Representations have been received from time to time for various sections, particularly on Tam-baram-Chingleput and suburban section on the Eastern Railway. Schemes, which are found feasible and justified on examination, will be implemented, when funds become available.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know whether there is any scheme for the electrification of the line between Madras and Bangalore and the line between Madras and Vijayawada ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : No, Sir.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Have any representations been received by Government in respect of these lines ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Not to my knowledge.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What is the estimated cost for the Tambaram-Chingleput line ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The estimated cost for a single line between Madras-Egmore and Tambaram and a double line between Tambaram and Chingleput is Rs. 2'61 crores.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Is it a fact that this matter has been before Government for the last several years ?