

Departmentally run Refreshment Rooms on S. Rly.

***504. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of departmentally run refreshment rooms on the Southern Railway are being closed and handed over to the contractors;

(b) if so, their names and particulars; and

(c) what are the reasons for such a change?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 95].

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the quantity of rice supplied to passengers in the railway refreshment rooms is inadequate and whether they have to supplement it by paying an additional amount?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I do not know how it arises out of the question.

Shri Nambiar: Because of that, the refreshment rooms are closed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should realise that the question he has put is whether a number of departmentally run refreshment rooms on the Southern Railway are being closed and handed over to the contractors. There would be rice, dal and many more things. Now he takes up the inadequacy of rice. His only question is what are the reasons why these are closed and handed over to contractors.

Shri Nambiar: The reason is asked for here already, and the reply is that it is due to loss that they are closed. The loss is due to inadequate supply of rice because of which passengers are not using the railway refreshment rooms. That was why I asked the question.

Mr. Speaker: Inadequate supply of rice may be due to paucity of rice supply. We cannot stretch it here.

Shri Nambiar: There was rationing imposed.

Mr. Speaker: He has said in the statement that they are concentrating on the larger stations. Therefore, they have closed certain others that were running at a loss.

Shri Nambiar: Exactly. The loss is due to this reason that rice supply was restricted. So passengers go outside and take food there.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Side by side with departmental catering, there is also contractor catering. But instead of being complementary, they become competitive. To avoid that, we have decided to concentrate on departmental management at the larger stations. The idea in establishing departmental catering was to set up a high standard so that the private contractors may come up to that standard. That is why they are concentrating upon important stations.

Mr. Speaker: The point made is that rice is not available in sufficient quantity in these refreshment rooms run by departmental management and, therefore, the customers go outside. Hence the departmentally managed refreshment rooms suffer a loss. Is that so?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No, that is not a fact.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether it is also due to inefficiency on the part of the Catering Superintendent in the Southern Railway?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is not so.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In the statement laid on the Table, it is said that it was decided 'to give up establishments which were not quite important or essential and could be managed efficiently by contractors'. In this part of the statement, is there an implied suggestion on the part of Government that departmental

catering has been a failure or at least not as conspicuous a success as it was expected to be?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is not a failure. On the other hand, we are making a slight profit now on the Southern Railway. It is not due to that. It is because we want to avoid unhealthy competition between the contractors' catering and departmental catering which results in a loss.

Mr. Speaker: There was an implication in that that the department has given up those things that could better be run by the contractors. Therefore, he draws his conclusion that perhaps in those cases the contractors were running in a better way.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Contractors may run more cheaply because they are not guided by certain wage regulations, whereas we are paying higher wages.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether this experiment of extending departmental catering in one dimension and diminution in the other is so encouraging as to apply it to the other railways also?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Not necessarily. Wherever there is a loss, we want to curtail that loss and concentrate upon important stations. That is the principle laid down.

Shri Koya: Is it the intention of the Government to give all the departmental canteens to the contractors?

Mr. Speaker: No, that is not the intention.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister stated that they would not do it always, but wherever there are losses then the same thing will be followed. I want to know whether the Railway Ministry is unable to find out the reasons why there is a loss, and what steps have been taken to find out the reasons.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We know the reasons. Not merely are we paying higher wages, we are paying great

attention to quality which the private contractor will not do.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether the dining cars run by the railways are also running at a loss; if so, whether they will also be stopped?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Some of them are running at a loss, but it will be maintained for the convenience of the passengers.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any of these refreshment rooms that are going to be transferred to contractors will be transferred to co-operative societies? Has that been considered by the Government?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If co-operative societies come forward, we shall consider their claim.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी बाई : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि डाइनिंग कार में जो थाली परोसते हैं तो अगर दस थाली परोसते हैं तो दो की ही रसीद देते हैं और दो का ही हिसाब रखते हैं इसलिये लाम होता है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह सही नहीं है । जितनी थाली देते हैं उतने का ही हिसाब रखते हैं ।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी बाई : हमने देखा है कि हिसाब गलत रखते हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक सवाल हो जाये तो दूसरे के लिये इजाजत की जरूरत है ।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी बाई : वही हिसाब गलत रखते हैं, रसीद कम थालियों की देते हैं इसलिये लाम होता है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब यह तीसरा सवाल कर दिया ।

Shri Krishnapal Singh: Are any of the refreshment rooms run by the railways making any profit; if so, how many refreshment rooms are making any profit?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The idea is not to make profit, but to work on a no-profit no-loss basis.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri H. N. Mukerjee. Shri Naval Prabhakar.

Shri Naval Prabhakar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He should call out the number, not say "Yes, Sir."

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : ५०६ ।

दिल्ली में पंचायतों के चुनाव

५०६. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली में पंचायतों के चुनाव होंगे; और

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में मध्य प्रारम्भिक कार्यवाही कर ली गई है ।

सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री श्यामधर मिश्र) : (क) दिल्ली में मौजूदा पंचायतों की अवधि अक्टूबर, १९६२ को समाप्त होती है । नये चुनाव समय पर करने का विचार है ।

(ख) चुनाव करने के लिये प्रारम्भिक कार्यवाही की जा रही है ।

[The answer was also read in English]

(a) The term of the existing Panchayats in Delhi is due to expire in October, 1962. It is proposed to hold fresh elections in time.

(b) The preliminaries for the conduct of elections are in progress.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : पिछले जनरल एलेक्शंस में बहुत से लोगों के वोट नहीं बने थे और इस कारण वह वोट देने से रह गये थे, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अब उन को वोटर्स बनाने की कोशिश की जा रही है ?

Shri Shyam Dhar Mishra: All steps are being taken so that all the voters are included in the voters' list.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : पंचायतों के जो चुनाव हुए थे उन में पंचायतों के मेम्बरों को अंग्रेजी में नामिनेशन फॉर्म दिये गये थे, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आने वाले चुनावों में क्या कुछ ऐसा प्रबन्ध किया जायेगा कि उन को हिन्दी या उर्दू में यह फॉर्म दिये जायें ?

श्री श्यामधर मिश्र : जी हाँ इस पर विचार किया गया है और उन को हिन्दी में भी दिये जायेंगे ।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether it has been assessed as to the percentage of panchayats requiring bayonets to help their elections?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : श्रीमान्, क्या सरकार ने इस बात का पता लगाया है कि कितनी पंचायतें ऐसी हैं जो कि अपने चुनाव कराने के लिये फौज की मदद चाहती हैं?

श्री श्यामधर मिश्र : फौज की मदद की जरूरत नहीं है ।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : पुलिस की मदद कहिये ।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Surplus Rihand Power

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*507. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large volume of surplus power is available from the Rihand Power Project;

(b) whether there is any scheme to utilise this idle surplus power outside Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) whether the claims of any other States have been considered in this regard?