

and consultation with the Netherlands Government, the State Government and the Central Government.

#### Overcrowding in Malabar and Cochin Express

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\*1169. { Shri Nanjappa:  
          Shrimati Parvathi  
          Krishnan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious overcrowding is reported on the Malabar Nilgiri and Cochin Express trains on the Southern Railway;

(b) what steps are taken to increase the Third Class accommodation on these trains;

(c) whether in this connection Government propose to consider the discontinuance of the air-conditioned coach in the Nilgiri Express which is being run daily in all seasons of the year; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce new trains on these sections?

†The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Some overcrowding has been noticed on these trains on certain sections.

(b) One additional III class coach is being attached to the Malabar and Cochin Expresses to relieve seasonal overcrowding during the summer months when the traffic is heavy on account of the increased movement of marriage parties, school children etc.

(c) No.

(d) Not at present.

Shri Nanjappa: What are the difficulties in running Janata Express from Shoranur to Madras and vice versa or at least from Olavakote to Madras?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The difficulties are lack of line capacity and rolling-stock.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Recently the Railway Minister stated in Rajya Sabha that where the occupation ratio of the air-conditioned coach is less than 40 per cent, he would discontinue it. May I know whether the air-conditioned coach has an occupation ratio of more than 40 per cent?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes; it has.

Shri Ranga: Is it during the season or during the off-season also?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: During the season the percentage of occupation is very high; it is 70 to 80 per cent.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the Cochin Express actually requires no air-conditioning because the climatic conditions are such that it is not needed? Will the Government consider the discontinuance of that?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The air-conditioned coach is very well patronised.

Shri Nanjappa: Where is the necessity for running an air-conditioned coach for a distance of 300 miles and that too in the night time?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving reasons for discontinuance.

#### Project at Pochampad in Andhra Pradesh

\*1171. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have proposed to investigate a major project on the river Godavary at Pochampad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the approximate expenditure to be incurred on detailed investigations;

†This answer was later corrected by the Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) vide Debate dated the 6th September, 1957.