

(c) The approved air fare between Agartala and Calcutta is Rs. 49 (return fare Rs. 93) and between Agartala and Gauhati, the nearest airport to shillong, is Rs. 38 (return fare Rs. 72).

Shri Biren Dutt: May I know whether representations have been received that the air fare is heavy?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of any such representation having been received. But, I may inform the hon. Member that so far as railway fare is concerned, by an indirect route which is the only route available, the railway fare for first class is Rs. 101 and for second class it is Rs. 56/8. As compared to these rates the rate of Rs. 49 for air fare is quite reasonable.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : लास्ट ईयर हमारें यहां से कितने आदमियों ने इस रास्ते यात्रा की ?

श्री राज बहादुर : इस का सब हिसाब बतलाना संभव नहीं है ।

SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES IN TRIPURA

*614. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Scheduled Air Service from one air port to another inside Tripura; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to introduce Scheduled Air Service there?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

FOODGRAINS FOR TRIPURA

*615. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is influx of about one lakh of displaced persons in Tripura since the introduction of the passport system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Tripura imported only one thousand tons of foodgrains from the Centre during the year 1952; and

(c) whether Government of Tripura propose to import foodgrains during the current year also?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The influx was just before the introduction of the passport system.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As there is still time, as a special case I shall allow an opportunity to hon. Members who were absent when I called them a second time.

Shri Nambiar: Then I would put my question No. 597.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAYMEN

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

(a) what action has been taken on the representation made to the Minister on the grievances of the Railwaymen on the 4th August, 1952 consisting of 26 items; and

(b) whether any of the items referred to therein has been disposed of and the decision communicated to the Railwaymen?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matters raised in the representation had already received the consideration of Government and were further re-examined on receipt of the representation and action has been taken wherever necessary. No special intimation is sent to any staff in respect of such representations.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the person making a representation will be informed of the action taken or not taken?

Shri Alagesan: If the hon. Member wants to have the details of the action taken, we will have to be informed of it first.

Shri Nambiar: Will a person making a representation get a reply or not about the action taken?

Shri Alagesan: If it is a member of the staff, no.

Shri Nambiar: If a Member of this House has made a representation, will he get a reply about the action taken or not?

Shri Alagesan: That will depend upon each case.

CONGRESS SESSION AT HYDERABAD

*601. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what were the special arrangements made by the Railway

Department in connection with the 58th Session of the All-India Congress?

(b) What was the total expenditure incurred by the department on these arrangements?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) To meet the abnormal rush of traffic the arrangements made included the following:—

12 Inward and 9 Outward Special Trains to and from Hyderabad and Kacheguda, from and to various parts of the country;

haulage of additional carriages by some daily trains;

issue of return tickets for all classes on payment of two single journey fares per ticket;

provision of temporary additional facilities at Hyderabad (BG) and Kacheguda (MG) such as waiting sheds with sanitary conveniences, bathing facilities, food stalls, booking offices for booking of passengers and their luggage; and

provision of an Enquiry, Booking and Reservation office at Nanalnagar at the Congress Camp.

(b) Rs. 42,000 approximately for the temporary additional facilities provided at Hyderabad and Kacheguda stations and at Nanalnagar Congress Camp.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस कांग्रेस की सबब से रेलवे की क्या आमदनी हुई ?

Shri Alagesan: We have not been able to collect the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If any other hon. Member wants to put his question, he may do so.

The Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

'A' CLASS VISAS ISSUED BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*554. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'A' class visas issued by India and Pakistan respectively up to the 31st December, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has not been issuing 'A' class visas to Indian citizens; and

(c) whether it is a fact that small businessmen and cultivators on the Indian borders are not given proper facilities of harvesting their crop on the other side and of doing daily business?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Till the 31st December, 1952, 2854 Category 'A' visas were issued by Indian Visa Issuing Authorities. The Government of India have no official statistics of the visas issued by Pakistan Visa Issuing Authorities, but they understand that less than 100 Category 'A' visas were issued to Indian nationals during the same period.

(b) and (c). The inadequate issue of Category 'A' visas to Indian nationals has caused considerable hardship. But this seems to have been due more to the inadequacy of Pakistan's administrative arrangements than to a deliberate denial of facilities to any particular class of persons. This was brought to the notice of the Pakistan delegation to the recent Passports Conference, and the latter promised to remedy it. It has also been taken up with the Government of East Bengal by the Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.

ESTIMATE OF BHAKRA-NANGAL PROJECT

*555. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimate of expenditure on Bhakra-Nangal Project made in 1949 has been considerably exceeded at present;

(b) if so, by what amount the estimate has gone up; and

(c) what are the reasons therefore?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 23 crores approximately.

(c) (1) Increase in cost of works on account of higher prices of construction materials, carriage and labour rates;

(2) Increase in the quantity of works to be done as a result of detailed investigations, change in design and specifications and increase in the scope of the Project; and

(3) Increase in the cost of imported machinery and equipment due to devaluation of the rupee.