

or two tiers. They will be merely two-tier coaches.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know for how many coaches and in which trains this replacement will take place?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have placed orders purely as an experimental measure for six broad gauge and six metre gauge coaches having two tiers. These coaches will be available either in February or March.

**Shri Dabhi:** What about the promise that the Minister gave on the floor of the House that the three-tier berths would be replaced?

**Mr. Speaker:** He has already answered.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the fact that the third tier is very difficult to climb, pending the replacement of these three-tier berths by two-tier berths, will the Ministry consider not reserving the third tier for anybody, because now if anybody goes to reserve three or four seats, he is compelled to take the third berth also?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Certain modifications have already taken place regarding spacing of the various tiers. That, I believe, has already made some difference. Although the space on the third tier is rather limited, I myself have got into it.

**Shri Heda:** That is impossible.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** When Shri Santhanam was the Railway Minister, he had introduced three-tier berths in the second class and they were found to be a failure and it was remarked at the time that several crores of rupees had been wasted on that. In view of this fact, why is it that the third class coaches were provided with three tiers again?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I do not know about the past history, but anyhow there was no sleeping accommodation provided to the third class passengers at all. That has to be kept in mind by the hon. Members, and as an experiment we decided to provide sleeping coaches with three tiers. Economically it is a sound proposition for the railways. Still, with a view to provide adequate comfort to the third class passengers we are considering the abolition of the third tier. I might inform the hon. Members that only the other day when I was travelling in the G. T. Express, I went to the third class passengers and they said: "You should immediately provide the third tier so that we can get more sleeping accommodation." So, those friends who do not travel in the third class, if they will excuse my saying so, are keen on getting more sleeping accommodation.

I might also inform the House that we are thinking of making another experiment—a third class coach in which we will provide sleeping accommodation for 80 per cent. of the passengers travelling in that coach. That is another experiment which we propose to make, providing sleeping accommodation to almost all the passengers who are travelling in the coach. So, we are making experiments with a view to give as much comfort and convenience to the third class passengers. And I continue to get questions all the time, as possible and every time Shri Dabhi comes forward with these questions. He knows that we are making adequate arrangements. It sometimes gets nauseating.

#### Signalling Equipment Factory

\*52. **Shri K. S. Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a factory for the manufacture of mechanical and electrical signalling equipment;

(b) if so, where the same is likely to be located; and

(c) the time by which the factory is likely to go into production?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Shri K. S. Rao:** May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to expand and develop the manufacture of signalling equipment on the railways?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have signalling equipment workshops and those workshops are enough for repairs and maintenance of all the signalling equipment that are with the railways. They also manufacture non-standard fittings. There is no proposal at present to set up a signalling equipment factory as such because the railways would like to leave that to the private sector.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether it is a fact that the S.T.E. Workshops in Trichinopoly on the Southern Railway is to be expanded or developed under any scheme?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Yes, Sir. During the next five years we propose to spend Rs. 125 lakhs on the expansion of signalling equipment workshops, and that workshop would be one of them.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Could I know whether the Estimates Committee which examined the question last year has made

any specific recommendations on the improvement of the signalling equipment and has also suggested the setting up of a factory for that?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** As the Deputy Minister has just now said, we are starting the new workshops as part of bigger workshops. On almost all the railways we are opening shops for manufacturing signalling equipment.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** Just now the Deputy Minister said that the manufacture of this signalling equipment is to be left to the private sector. When we are expanding our workshops, and we have already got efficient workshop why is it that the Government leaves the manufacture of a part of this equipment to the private sector?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Because we want to encourage the private sector.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the cost of production by the private sector and by the public sector has been estimated and whether manufacture of signalling equipment by the private sector is beneficial to the railways?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** There are private factories which are already making signalling equipment. We do not to deprive them of their business. In fact, at the present moment we have to take advantage of all the sectors. The railways have a lot of work to do and therefore if we can get some of the parts and components from the private sector, we would naturally like to have them and we will make them in our workshops also.

### Locust Swarms

\*53. **Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the time when the locust storms were last seen in this country on a large scale and the damage done to the crops;

(b) the damage done by the locust swarms that visited Rajasthan on a small scale, before monsoon; and

(c) the steps taken to destroy the larvae which have more fertility in damp weather?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The locust swarms on a large scale were last seen on the 29th January 1955. The value of loss to crops was estimated at about Rs. 50 lakhs.

(b) None.

(c) Young locust were killed by dusting and spraying poison with ground equipment and aeroplanes—Trenches were also dug in front of the moving locust hopper bands to aid destruction.

**Shri R. P. Garg:** May I know whether a warning was received by the Government of India from the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I could not say in which particular case warnings were received. I must have notice.

**Shri R. P. Garg:** May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* dated May 30 where a warning issued by the London centre has been given?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If it was given it must have been received and I am sure it must have been utilised also.

**Shri Kaulwal:** May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention was drawn to the fact that owing to a lot of rains in the western part of Rajasthan large-scale breeding of these locusts are taking place and may I also know whether effective steps have been taken to eradicate them?

**Dr. S. P. Deshmukh:** We have got a very extensive organisation and I venture to say that the work they have done is very commendable. As I have already stated, we have not had any swarms since 29th January 1955. I have no doubt that whenever there was any likelihood due to lack of rain or more rains, we try to do our best in co-operation with the State Government.

**Shri Veeraswamy:** May I know whether these locust swarms have invaded any part of South India and, if so, which part and what is the extent of damage done to crops by the last swarms?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The south had hardly any share in this respect.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is he inviting them?

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi):** They are linguistic.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** . . . . and the damage done is therefore nil. I have got a full list of the damage done in the various States. But, so far as the south is concerned no damage has been reported. They have it seems gone up to Madhya Pradesh. The damage there was about Rs. 70,300; and also Bihar. That is the information we have got.