

have asked about the rise in price of steel in the last two months. I said there has been no rise. In fact, so far as the open market price is concerned, there has been a slight decrease. So far as the JPC prices are concerned, they have remained the same.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : We understand from the answer of the hon. Minister that there has not been a rise of the order of 50%. May we know as to what is the extent of the rise ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : As I said, there has been no rise at all, that is to say, between January 1971 and the end of February 1971. In the open market there has been a slight fall in the price of steel.

So far as the JPC and the stock-yard prices are concerned, they are almost the same.

Loss to Railway due to Curtailment of Trains

*31. **SHRI P. K. DEO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government recently curtailed several passenger trains ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore ; and
- (c) the extent to which Railways suffered loss as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of coal as a sequel to a strike by a section of the staff in Dhanbaj Division of Eastern Railway seriously affecting the loading and movement of coal.

(c) The loss is about the order of Rs. 78 lakhs approximately.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Sir, it is very disheartening that the tax-payers' money has been lost to the tune of Rs. 78 lakhs. We do not feel satisfied with the stock reply of the hon. Minister. May I know on whose shoulders this responsibility could be squarely placed for the loss of this Rs. 78 lakhs of poor tax-payers' money ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : Here is the Government as represented by the

Railway Administration and there are Labour Unions. I do not know where to place the blame.

SHRI P. K. DEO : My second question is : when all those passenger trains be revived ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : They will be revived very soon. The number of passenger trains cancelled...

SHRI P. K. DEO : Sir, I want a time limit by which time they will be resumed. The Minister cannot reply to this simple question.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : It is not possible to reply straight away definitely because of the conditions. We will make utmost efforts to start these trains to bring satisfaction to the persons concerned.

SHRI P. K. DEO : It is the most unsatisfactory reply.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा है कि उनका कसूर नहीं है और न ही यूनियन का कसूर है। कोल की तंगी की वजह से गाड़िया बन्द हो जाती हैं और मुसाफिरों को आने जाने में कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है। अभी बरौरी में हड़ताल के कारण उषर छोटी लाइन की गाड़ियां बन्द हो गई हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार कौन से स्थायी इंतजाम कर रही है। न सरकार का कसूर है और न रेलवे यूनियन का। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कसूर किस का है ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I was saying that between these two agencies the apportionment of blame is very difficult and I do not want to complicate the issues.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : The Minister was saying that it was all due to some strikes. May I know the number of strikes that took place in the recent period, the number of workers involved in the strikes and the cause of the strike ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : Notice,

MR. SPEAKER : The question is about curtailment of trains. If you want to ask about anything else, you may put a separate question.

मतदाता सूचियों में मतदान के लिए पात्र व्यक्तियों के नामों का शामिल न किया जाना

*32. श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : क्या बिचि तथा न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मतदाता सूची में बड़ी संख्या में पात्र व्यक्तियों के नाम शामिल नहीं किये गये थे ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भविष्य में निर्वाचन सूची में सभी पात्र व्यक्तियों के नाम शामिल करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) No, Sir. The electoral rolls were revised with reference to the 1st January, 1970 as the qualifying date. Immediately after the dissolution of the Fourth Lok Sabha the Election Commission also issued two Press notes on 29.12.70 and 14.1.71 informing the public that all eligible persons who had completed the age of 21 years on or before the 1st January, 1970 but who did not find their names entered in the rolls should apply immediately to the concerned Electoral Registration Officers for the inclusion of their names. All such applications which were received upto 5.00 p.m. on 18.1.71 were enquired into and disposed of.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of section 21(2)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the electoral roll shall be revised in any year in the prescribed manner by reference to the 'qualifying date' (which means the 1st day of January of the year in which it is revised) if such revision has been directed by the Election Commission. The Commission proposes to carry out a thorough revision of the electoral rolls with the 1st January, 1971 as the qualifying date.

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : अन्य जनतंत्रीय देशों में प्रठारह साल की आयु के लोगों को भी मत देने का अधिकार दिया गया है लेकिन हमारे

यहां 21 साल की आयु वालों को दिया जाता है। उनमें से भी कुछ को वंचित रखा गया है। जो मशीनरी है वह इतनी कमजोर हो गई है कि दूर दराज के रहने वालों और तंग गलियों में रहने वाले ग्राम आदिमियों के नाम तो दूर रहे, बड़े बड़े नेताओं के नाम भी लिस्ट्स में दर्ज नहीं थे। क्या सरकार इस मशीनरी को ठीक करने के लिए कुछ करने जा रही है ? जहां यह साबित ही जायेगा कि फला क्षेत्र में फला नेता का नाम जो लोक सभा की सदस्यता के लिये खड़ा होना चाहता था, बोटर्स लिस्ट में नहीं था, क्या उनके लिये दोषी कर्मचारी के खिलाफ सरकार एकशन लेने के लिये तैयार है और क्या किसी ऐमे केस में किसी कर्मचारी के खिलाफ कोई एकशन लिया गया है या किसी को कोई सजा दी गई है ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : After the last election in 1967 when the number of voters was 250 million, in this election the number is 275 million. Therefore there is the continuous process of keeping the voters' list up to date and although the date has elapsed, in view of the mid-term poll the Election Commission extended the date and allowed applications to be made for inclusion or for raising objections. Such applications and statements as were received were examined and investigation was done. Investigators were sent and after the investigation report was received such names were included as were to be included and such names were excluded as merited exclusion. All the precautions were taken. Even then it may be that here and there some voters' names may not have been included. It is largely because either the leaders or the voters themselves were not careful or conscious enough to take them up, to make an application to the Election Commission, etc.

MR. SPEAKER : Should we take up Q. No. 33 and Q. No. 32 together ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या प्रश्न पूछा जा रहा है और क्या उत्तर दिया जा रहा है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस तरफ ध्यान दें।