

State undertakings which have made the Government form a committee to study the affairs?

Mr. Speaker: Were there special difficulties why the committee was considered necessary?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No. Some of the members felt that in the initial stages, the corporations cannot make profits and if they were charged income-tax when the profit was nominal, that would reduce their profit. That was the occasion. The Finance Ministry does not agree with this view. I personally do not see how far a committee will be useful so long as the Finance Ministry is not agreeable to such a proposal.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Are the State transport undertakings proving unprofitable and stand in need of tax relief?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That statement cannot be applied universally. Some of the State transport corporations, in the initial stages, may not be self-supporting. As they go on and experience is gained, they make profits.

Shri Maheswar Nalk: May I know how many State corporations have been now set up and in which States?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the names. But, I think quite a number of State Governments have set up State transport corporations.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if there is any uniformity in running transport undertakings in the different States and secondly, if the Central Government is trying to bring about uniformity?

Mr. Speaker: If he does not say one and two, probably that would be better though he may put the same question. If he specifically says one and two, the rules come in the way. I cannot allow more than one.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: My question would not be complete unless I put both.

Mr. Speaker: He can put the question in another way. If he definitely says one and two, the rules impede that.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Uniformity is a wide term. I am afraid it may not be possible to have uniformity in the matter of State transport. So far as pattern is concerned, more or less, the pattern conceived is uniform. There will be three parties: State Government, Central Government where it pays through the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Transport and some local authorities or private parties where they may come.

Shri Warior: The Special cell set up by the Finance department had screened or examined certain of the private and public road transport undertakings in the States. Which are the States and which are those left out?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not have that information.

Loan to British Firm for Shipping Business

*1184. **Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have sanctioned a loan of rupees two crores to a British firm which has shipping business on Calcutta-Assam route on the Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the conditions on which the loan is sanctioned?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) It has been decided to give a loan of Rs. 2 crores to the Joint Steamer Companies (Rs. 1 crore each to the India General Navigation and Railway Company Limited and Rivers Steam Navigation Company Ltd.) to enable them to rehabilitate their obsolete fleet for the maintenance of essential I.W.T. services on Calcutta-Assam route.

(b) A statement showing the main terms and conditions for the grant of the loan is laid on the Table of the

Sabha. [Placed in Library. See LT-No. 159/60].

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

हिन्दूमलकोट और शीगंगानगर के बीच रेलवे लाइन

*११६७. श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिन्दूमलकोट और शीगंगानगर के बीच नई रेलवे लाइन के निर्माण का कार्य कब प्रारम्भ होगा और कब तक पूरा हो जायगा और क्या रेलमार्ग में कोई परिवर्तन करने का विचार है ;

(ख) किसानों की कितने एकड़ जमीन इस रेलवे लाइन के अन्तर्गत आयगी ; और

(ग) क्या उपरोक्त जमीन के लिये मुआवजा नकद धन के रूप में अथवा बैंकल्पिक जमीन के रूप में दिया जायगा और यदि बैंकल्पिक जमीन दी जायगी तो यह किन स्थानों पर आवंटित होगी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) : (क) जब राजस्थान सरकार जमीन का कब्जा उत्तर रेलवे को दे देगी और श्रमदान द्वारा मिट्टी डालने की योजना अन्तिम रूप में तैयार कर लेगी, तो काम तुरन्त शुरू कर दिया जायगा। अभी से यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि यह काम कब पूरा होगा। रेल मार्ग में कोई परिवर्तन करने का विचार नहीं है।

(ख) लगभग १६४ एकड़।

(ग) उत्तर रेलवे राजस्थान सरकार को जमीन की कीमत नकद चुकायेगी। इस बात का निर्णय राजस्थान सरकार को करना है कि जमीन के मालिकों को नकद मुआवजा दिया जाय या जमीन के बदले में उन्हें कोई और जमीन दी जाय।

Shrimati Renuka Barkataki: One of the conditions in the statement is that the company is to make it accounts both at London and Calcutta available for inspection to representatives of the Government. May I know the representative whom the Government has appointed to inspect these accounts?

12:00 hrs.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The occasion has not arisen yet, because no amount has been so far advanced to the company.

Shrimati Renuka Barkataki: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that after the sanctioning of the loan, the freight rate has been increased by 5 per cent?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That has nothing to do with the loan. As I have stated, the terms and conditions of the loan have been recently finalised, and the company has not drawn any amount so far.

Shri Basumatari: In the statement it has been stated that with loan of Rs. 2 crores, they would purchase some vessels, equipment and other things. What are the terms and conditions on which the loan is going to be recovered? That is to say, after the termination of the agreement period, what would be the mode of recovery of the loan by Government?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Everything has been stipulated in the agreement, how the instalments are to be paid, when the payment will start, what the rate of interest will be, how Government will realise the loan and so on; the assets will be mortgaged to Government.