

से दूसरे स्टेशन पर जाने में जहाँ 20 मिनट लगते थे वहाँ 30 मिनट कर दिया गया है ?

**डा० राम सुभग सिंह :** यह बिल्कुल सरसरी तौर पर नहीं कहा जा सकता क्योंकि इस चीज को मैं नहीं मानता कि इस तरह से जहाँ 20 मिनट लगते थे पहले अब उसको 30 मिनट कर दिया गया है। इसके उससे अब समय कम कराने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

**Shri Thimmalah:** Is it a fact that the late-running of trains, particularly in the Southern Railways, is due to the supply of old and worn out engines? If so, what steps have been taken to replace them?

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** As you know, Sir, engines are replaced on a schedule basis. They are manufactured here and some are imported also, but some of them are damaged and so it becomes a bit difficult to provide new engines everywhere.

12.00 hrs.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### Revision of Coal Price

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**S.N.Q. 11. Shri P. R. Chakravarti:**  
**Shri Hukam Chand**  
**Kachhavalaya:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a review of the coal price structure;

(b) whether a price revision Committee is proposed to be set up;

(c) if so, the composition of the said Committee;

(d) whether Government have approved in principle the proposal to merge the organisations of Coal Controller and Coal Board; and

(e) whether the reconstituted Coal Board will deal with the industry's development and distribution of products?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A. Mehdi):** (a) The question, with all its implications, would be put up before the next meeting of the Coal Advisory Council and action taken thereafter.

(b) and (c). An *Ad hoc* official Group is proposed to be appointed to make a quick study of whether or not any price revision is called for, on the basis of the principles enunciated by the Coal Price Revision Committee, 1957.

(d) and (e). The proposal to merge the organisations of Coal Controller and Coal Board has been approved in principle. Constitution of the reorganised unit and its functions is under examination.

**Shri P. R. Chakravarti:** In the context of the experiences of the Bhoothalingam Committee, which was only an officials-manned committee and which had invited loud protests from all the trade unions, is the Government now thinking of setting up a committee including the trade union representatives?

**The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey):** When we appoint a committee to go afresh into the price structure of coal, the intention is that we shall have representation of some outside interests also including non-officials.

**Shri P. R. Chakravarti:** Will the Government indicate to us the main features of the improvements which are proposed to be introduced by this merger scheme which has been approved?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** Briefly, it is intended that the two organisations working together will bring about economy in operation. Also, the intention is to see that the Coal Controller's Office, which has more or less

functioned till now as a regulatory organisation, will be transformed into an organisation for promotion of development of coal-mining in the country.

**श्री हुकुम चन्द कछवाय :** यह कोयले की प्राप्ति को रिवाइज करने की इस समय क्या आवश्यकता पड़ गई और इस सम्बन्ध में किन किन बातों पर विचार सरकार करने वाली है, इस की क्या रूपरेखा बनाई है, कुछ कनेटो करने वाली है, यदि हां, किन-किन बातों पर वह विचार करने वाली है, क्या कोई रूपरेखा है सामने ?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** There are two committees involved. One is a small group of people to go quickly into the question whether or not any interim price increase is indicated in the light of the recommendations made in 1957 by a committee which went into the whole structure of coal prices. Another one is that the committee which went into it in 1957 laid down certain basic principles on which the coal price structure should rest. It is now time that a fresh study should be made. So, there are these two committees—one committee is for a quick study and the other one will be for a more comprehensive study.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Let the new Minister make a fresh study now.

**श्री हुकुम चन्द कछवाय :** मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है ?

**श्री अण्णल महोदय :** उत्तर आ गया है ।

**श्री श्री यशपाल सिंह :** बार बार सरकार यह कहती है कि कोयला सरप्लस है और दूसरे इलाके ऐसे हैं कि जहां कोयला पट्टा नहीं रहा है तो क्या इस दिक्कत को सरकार ने महसूस किया है कि जहां बैंगल मिलते हैं वहां कोयला नहीं है और जहां कोयला मिलता है वहां बैंगल नहीं हैं तो इसके लिए क्या रेलवे मंत्रालय और आपका डिपार्टमेंट मिल कर आपस में सलाह मशविरा करके कोई ऐसी सुविधा पैदा करेंगे ताकि ट्रेजमें कोयले की कमी नहीं रहे ।

**Shri S. K. Dey:** There is a surplus capacity for production of coal. There are facilities provided by the railways in adequate number of wagons to transport coal. Wherever difficulties are experienced we bring this to the notice of the Railway Ministry and we have had no case of lack of cooperation from them.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** May I know whether it is a fact that the principle of lowest the quality, highest the price and highest the price, lowest the quality is still being followed in respect of Assam collieries and whether it is a fact that most of the Assam collieries, except one, which is a sterling company, are on the verge of collapse on account of fixation of inadequate price and non-allocation of adequate quotas?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** It is a fact that there are some difficulties in respect of the Assam collieries. This question is being thoroughly studied with a view to give such a relief as is called for.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I would like to know whether the hon. Minister knows that while making a statement in reply to a Short Notice Question, the hon. Labour Minister said that these mine-owners have decided to pay bonus only on one condition that their coal price be increased. I would like to know whether it has been made clear to the mine-owners that this question will only be considered when they decide to pay bonus to the workers.

**Shri S. K. Dey:** As far as I know, there was no such statement made at least to me by the representatives of the mine-owners.... (Interruption).

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order. It was stated on the floor of the House. I remember every word of it.

**Mr. Speaker:** He can say, "not to my knowledge"; he cannot say "not to me".

**Shri S. K. Dey:** I met the representatives of the colliery associations just

four or five days ago. They made no such demands. (*Interruption*).

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram). Sir, I am being quoted. I never said that they had made a condition that unless the price was increased, they will not pay bonus. That condition was never put.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You said it in reply to a Short Notice Question. (*Interruption*).

M.: Speaker: That can be taken up separately but not like this.

Shri A. P. Sharma: The hon. Minister has said in reply to a question of Shri P. R. Chakraverti that the proposed committee will also include representatives from the trade, most probably non-officials. The question was a specific one as to whether this committee will include the trade union representative also.

Shri S. K. Dey: It will be considered.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह कोयले के जो मूल्य बढ़ेंगे तो क्या इन कोयला खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के महंगाई भत्ते तथा तनख्वाहों आदि की बढ़ोतरी होगी ? क्या उस समय सरकार इस बात का विचार रखेगी ?

Shri S. K. Dey: Of course, the Committee will go into the question of the wages of workers also when they determine the price.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: In view of the fact—the contention so ably supported by the Committee or recommended by the Government—that national price structure of coal has not yet been fixed up, may I know whether the Government propose to have first the coal price increased and then to ask the Committee to enquire into the coal price structure or to have the basic structure first and then to increase the price? Which will have the precedence?

Shri S. K. Dey: Already the basic structure exists on the recommendations

of a committee which went into this whole question in the year 1957. The contention is that 9 years have passed and, therefore, this question requires a fresh and a comprehensive study.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Track Maintenance Equipment

\*626. Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri Kishen Pattanayak:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Indian Railways to increase efficiency of the track and improve its maintenance; and

(b) whether the Railways have begun manufacturing track maintenance equipment of a high order in this country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) A number of steps have been taken e. g. raising of track standards on the trunk routes and main lines, provision of increased ballast cushion, welding of rail joints, improving the manual track maintenance technique side by side with adoption of mechanical maintenance which is being tried at a number of places on the Indian Railways, etc., etc.

(b) No, Sir.

### Manufacture of Ambassador Cars

\*632. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been made to ascertain the gradual deterioration in the quality of production of the new Ambassador Car;

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken for enforcing minimum standard in the quality of the car and its components; and

(c) whether the buyers of these cars are adequately protected against