

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Leave it alone

Shri S. K. Dey: I have no desire at all to give any offence to anyone, to any representative of the people. What I said was that we as a Government agency had failed to secure

Shri Tyagi: Why do you confess it?

Mr. Speaker. All right. We shall proceed to the next question

Shri Tyagi: I protest that Government have not failed

Detention of Goods at Sabarmati Railway Station

*1057. **Shri M. B. Thakore:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that all kinds of goods booked for up-country are detained for many days at Sabarmati Railway Station (Western Railways), and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to solve this problem?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawas Khan). (a) and (b) Detentions to goods booked to up-country for transshipment to Metre Gauge at Sabarmati are not excessive. Special efforts continue to be taken for reducing detentions to the minimum feasible

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the average time for which the goods lie down at Sabarmati?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: The average time taken for goods from the time of arrival to the time of despatch, that is, arrival by broad gauge and despatch by metre gauge, was 43 5 hours in April, 48 8 hours in May, and 46 1 hours in June. That, I can assure the Member, is not a very excessive time

Shri P. R. Patel. May I know why so much time is required to book goods from broad gauge to metre gauge?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: That much time is required. For, the broad gauge wagon comes, the goods have to be unloaded from the broad gauge, and then put into the metre gauge, re-booked, and then sent on. It all takes time

Mr. Speaker: Everybody knows this process of transshipment from the one to the other. What the hon Member wants to know is why so much time is taken. Of course, these are the processes which everybody knows

Shri Tyagi: Go-slow-policy

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know why more time than is necessary is being taken

Shri Shahnawas Khan: May I submit that during the year 1956, the average time taken in the month of April was 75 6 hours? In 1957, it has been brought down to 43. We are not content with it. We will make every effort to reduce this time

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know the distance between the broad gauge line and the metre gauge line, and why so much time is required to book from one to the other?

Mr. Speaker. How can we decide that matter here?

Shri M. B. Thakore. May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by Government for such delay?

Mr. Speaker. The hon Minister has said that they have reduced it from 75 hours to 43 hours and efforts are being made to reduce it further. Unless an hon Member is able to say either by his own experience or on the basis of the experience of a committee or report, that he has removed one wagon from one place to the other in only 24 hours and therefore, why are Government taking 43 hours, we cannot decide it here. These are only guesses on one side or the other

Shri Yajnik: Are there any mechanical cranes or other appliances employed for transshipping goods from the one place to the other?

Shri Shahnawas Khan: We have plenty of manpower available and our policy is to utilise it.