

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is the intention of the Ministry to set up a Railway Service Commission in each zone?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: For the time being, our four Commissions are coping with the situation and we have no such intention now.

Shri Ranga rose—

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of policy that hon. Members are raising. They want a Public Service Commission at the headquarters of each State. That is a matter of policy which cannot be raised now.

Shri Ranga: The only question is whether this particular point has not been placed before the Government for a number of years and why is it that they have not taken any action

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members can only ask questions to elicit information. No question on policy is allowed. They know there is ample time for them to change the policy. It cannot be done now

Despatch of Telegrams from New Delhi Railway Station

*1162. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telegrams sent from New Delhi Railway Station are wired to the Delhi main Station, to be relayed to the Central Telegraph Office from there; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this causes unnecessary delay and telegrams about arrival of persons reach later than the persons concerned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) There is a certain amount of avoidable delay. Steps have, however, already been taken to introduce direct working between New Delhi

Railway Station and New Delhi Central Telegraph Office.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The steps that have been taken may give some relief. But may I know if it is a fact that the telegraph lines or carrier lines have not been increased commensurate with the increase in traffic volume of telegrams?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The average number of telegrams received at the New Delhi Railway Station is 27 a day. Although the number is not high yet, because of the growing importance of the Station, we have already provided a direct circuit between New Delhi Railway Station and the Central Telegraph Office.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the strength of the staff in the Central Telegraph Office is adequate?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think so.

Locomotives

*1165. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the price for the locomotives manufactured by Tata Locomotive Works;

(b) if so, how it compares with similar locomotives manufactured elsewhere in India or imported from outside, and

(c) the basis on which the above price is fixed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix III, annexure No 92.]

(c) The prices fixed were based on the prices which the Tariff Commission recommended to the Government as a result of a detailed technical and cost investigation.

Shri Morarka: From the statement, it appears that while the cost of an imported locomotive is Rs. 3½ lakhs, the price fixed here is Rs. 7 lakhs. May I know on what consideration

the price is fixed at such a high level when the price of a broad gauge locomotive in Chittaranjan is just the same as the imported broad gauge locomotive?

Shri Feroze Gandhi: It is less.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is true that the prices quoted by the Tatas are considered to be on the high side. The Railway Ministry referred this question to the Tariff Commission, and the prices that have now been fixed have been fixed as a result of the recommendations of the Commission.

Shri Morarka: It was recommended that while fixing the price by the Tariff Commission, an expert from a foreign country should be associated with them. May I know if such an expert was associated with them, and if so, what was the recommendation of that expert?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I think that question should be referred to another Ministry.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know the imported price of the same type of locomotive as the one which is manufactured by TELCO?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The prices vary—Rs. 3,40,150 in case of West Germany, Rs. 3,18,334 in Japan and Rs. 4,15,833 in case of U.K.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: What are Government paying TELCO?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Very nearly Rs. 7 lakhs.

Shri C. D. Pande: Are Government aware that certain indigenous engineering firms have offered to construct locomotives and tenders at the same prices as the imported ones?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I would like to submit that in the initial stages, during the development period, it is but natural that the prices should be high. But the Tariff Com-

mission have fixed the prices on a grading scale, and they have laid down different prices for different periods.

Shri C. D. Pande: My question is different.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I will come to that. The price fixed by the Tariff Commission in the first period was Rs. 6,90,000 and in the third period, the price has been brought down to Rs. 4,44,000.

Shri A. C. Guha: When will the third period start?

Mr. Speaker: Let him complete his reply.

Shri Ranga: What is the answer he has given?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should hear the hon. Minister with patience. He has not finished. Before that, they are already on their feet.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: During the third price period, the price fixed is at Rs. 4,44,000. This compares very favourably with the imported price so far as U.K. is concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not in Germany.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The Tatas are going to further expand their capacity and we hope that when they have attained that expansion, the price will compare favourably with those imported from Japan and other countries. Therefore, the question of other firms coming in and making a start right from the beginning has not been considered by us.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: What is the price of the WG type locomotive (broad gauge) manufactured at Chittaranjan and the imported cost of the same type?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I could not give the exact figure, but it is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 6 lakhs both ways.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Is the price at which Chittaranjan is manufacturing

the WG type broad gauge locomotive less than the price which we are paying to TELCO for a metre gauge locomotive?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is more or less the same—compares very favourably.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What 'favourably'?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The prices of TELCO locomotives are much higher than those of imported locomotives.....

Shri Ranga: Why are we paying more to TELCO than we are paying to Chittaranjan?

Mr. Speaker: On a question, we have entered into a discussion. I will allow a half-hour discussion on this matter.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: One hour discussion.

Mr. Speaker: This evening or tomorrow.

Shri T. N. Singh: Half an hour will be too short for this very important question.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: One hour.

Shri T. N. Singh: More time should be allotted. It may be taken up next week.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, in which case hon. Members will give notice.

Economic Assistance from Netherlands

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*1166. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Shivnanjappa:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Netherlands Minister of Agriculture has offered his Government's economic and other assistance to the Prime Minister of India during his recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, the nature and quantum of assistance offered?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Netherlands Minister of Agriculture presented to the Prime Minister two memoranda during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the Hague. The Memoranda contain offer of financial and expert assistance for the establishment of an advanced training centre for work in hides and skins tanning, curing, tanning and the manufacture of shoes at Bakshi-katalab near Lucknow, U.P. and financial support for the operation of a pilot scheme for the reclamation of saline soils in the north Coastal area of Saurashtra (Bhal area).

The Netherlands Government have earmarked a sum amounting to approximately 850,000 guilders (Rs. 812,500) for the training centre at Bakshi-katalab and about 850,000 guilders (Rs. 10 lakhs) for the execution of the project for the Bhal area in Saurashtra.

The offer is under consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the plans for execution of these two projects just now referred to by the hon. Minister have been prepared by the Government of India?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I just say a word? There is nothing new. No fresh offer was made to me by the Dutch Government. These things were under consideration by the State Governments concerned for sometime past. I was merely informed that they have made these offers to the State Governments concerned, and no decision had been arrived at. Later it has come to the Government of India. No doubt, the Government of India would give a decision soon about it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I supplement that answer? The project will be considered in co-operation