

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** मेरा मतलब यह था कि वहाँ पर ओवर-क्राउडिंग को कम करने के लिये लाइन को उबल करने का जो प्रोजेक्ट था, उस में प्रगति हो रही है या नहीं।

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not a general question of overcrowding. It is a specific question regarding the running of Diesel trains. It has been answered. Next question.

### Labour at Howrah and Sealdah Stations

\*1189. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum and other communications from the casual and contract labour (State Railways) working in Howrah and Sealdah stations; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Some representations have been received.

(b) A statement indicating the points raised in these representations and the action taken thereon is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 93].

**Shri Hem Barua:** From the statement, it is evident that the question of extension of the Minimum Wages Act to casual labour is under consideration. It has been under consideration for a long time. In view of the fact that there are about 2 lakhs of casual and contract labour working in the railways all over the country, and in view of the fact that casual and contract labour working at Howrah and Sealdah are given just Re. 1 to Rs. 1-12-0 each a day and they work for 56 hours a week, may I know if the Government are going to extend the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act to embrace these workers immediately?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** This is rather a big question and it is at present receiving the attention of the

Planning Commission and then, later on, it will have to be approved by the Cabinet because, once the railways accept this, then the other Ministries also will have to extend this Act. So, it is rather a big problem and until it is approved by the Planning Commission and the Cabinet, I am afraid the Railways are not in a position to take any action.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** At the moment, where is it lying? Is it in the Planning Commission or in the Railway Ministry, because, an assurance was held out in the 1956 budget session that something will be done for casual labour.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** All I can say is that the matter is receiving attention in the proper quarters.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know the final stage of consideration.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** It is more than what I can say.

**Shri Hem Barua:** It has been receiving attention since 1956. It is another question. Now, in view of the fact that these workers at Sealdah and Howrah are in a registered trade union, may I know if the Railway Ministry is going to recognise the unions of these workers?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The Railway Ministry will recognise only the unions of railway employees. At present, casual labour cannot be classified as railway employees.

### Bhakra Nangal Project

\*1190. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have allotted any amount for the Irrigation and Power works under the Bhakra Nangal Project during 1957-58; and

(b) what are the main works of development to be undertaken?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl):** (a) An amount of Rs. 12.98 crores has been provided in 1957-58 towards loan assistance to the Governments of Punjab and Rajasthan for irrigation and power works of the Bhakra Nangal Project.

(b) The main development works to be undertaken are as follows:

- (i) Construction of roads in the region served by the Bhakra Canals;
- (ii) Development of mandis; and
- (iii) Provision of water supply and drainage.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know where the mandis are to be developed? Have the Government received any concrete scheme about the development of mandis?

**Shri Hathl:** Yes, Sir. The Bhakra Control Board has a scheme and the places where these mandis are to be developed are nearly 22 in Punjab and 24 in the old PEPFU area.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if any break-up of these figures can be given so far as road development programme is concerned with reference to the present State of Punjab and the State of Rajasthan?

**Shri Hathl:** I can give figures for the expenditure on roads in the Punjab area up to 31st March, 1957. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,45,65,922 covering 2,00,81 miles of roads. The provision in 1957-58 is Rs. 37,50,000 for the Punjab area.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if any amount has been set apart for purposes which can be described as social welfare purposes?

**Shri Hathl:** At present, these are the three activities which I have mentioned, namely, construction of roads, development of mandis and provision of water supply and drainage.

## Pension Scheme for Railways Staff

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\*1191. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions with the representatives of labour on proposals for introducing the pension-cum-gratuity system for the Railway staff have been completed;

(b) if so, whether proposals have been finalised;

(c) the important features of the final proposals accepted; and

(d) the time when this pension scheme is to be brought into force?

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

(b) and (c). The scheme which is awaiting Government's sanction is the same as the pension system with death-cum-retirement gratuity applicable to other Central Government servants.

(d) It is proposed to apply the scheme to all new entrants from 1-4-57, but those already in service on that date will be given an option.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know the time by which the whole scheme will be put through?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Very recently we have had consultations with the representatives of labour and we have come to some sort of agreement. We hope to introduce this system very shortly and when it is introduced it would take effect from 1st April, 1957.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** So far as this matter is concerned, regarding the new entrants, may I know whether there is any agreement between the representatives of labour and Government on this point or whether there was any point of difference?