

Mr. Speaker: What has price fixation to do with zones?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Between the maximum and minimum prices, there is an equalisation of the price level of foodgrains. I wanted to know how far the steps taken by the Government, by way of zonal restrictions and zonal movement of foodgrains, have helped to equalise the price level.

Shri A. P. Jain: We have authorised the Andhra Government to issue permits up to 10,000 tons for export to Calcutta and another 10,000 tons for export to Bombay. We are also arranging movement of foodgrains from these regions, which will naturally result in the equalisation of prices.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether in the recent conference of the hon. Minister with the Andhra State officials and Ministers, this question of economic price for paddy and rice has been discussed?

Shri A. P. Jain: This question very often comes up for discussion in a general way. There was no specific reference to the fixation of any minimum price. But everybody agrees that when the prices go down, Government must take action to fix the price at an economic level.

Railway Trade Unions

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*427. { **Shri Tangamani:**
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 129 on the 28th March, 1957 and state—

(a) whether Government have prescribed the conditions under which a Railway Trade Union is recognised;

(b) the percentage of membership required for recognition, and

(c) whether the "Model Constitution" for unions given in the State Railway Establishment Code is in force for grant of recognition?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Rules in the Establishment Code do not provide for any minimum percentage of membership, but generally a membership of not less than 10 per cent is accepted as sufficient.

(c) Yes, Sir, subject to any local variations considered necessary.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government would consider the recognition of unions which have got a membership of more than 10 per cent?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Not necessarily, so long as there are more representative recognised unions on that particular Railway.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government would consider the recognition of the Southern Railway Labour Union which was recognised in 1947, which now claims a more than 10 per cent membership?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: This Union was recognised in 1949. The hon. Member is aware that its recognition was withdrawn in the same year and the union was disaffiliated from the then Railwaymen's Federation. There is a more representative union on the Southern Railway. Therefore, the question of considering recognition of this particular union does not arise.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government not to recognise more than one union in a particular zone?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is the general policy.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether recognition is being granted to the Uttariya Railway Mazdoor union?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is one recognised union already in that Railway.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is another union. There were some disputes....

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is a small splinter group the parent body of which was merged with the recognized union. There is no question of recognising it.

Railway Accident

*428. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) which of the recommendations made by the Government Inspector of Railways in connection with the accident to 565 Down Passenger Train on the night of 1st/2nd September, 1956, have been accepted; and

(b) what steps have been taken to implement these recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Immediately on receipt of the report by the Government Inspector of Railways on this accident it was referred to the Commission of Enquiry consisting of Shri Sunderlal Trikumlal Desai, High Court Judge, as its sole Member, assisted by two assessors, to consider the report of Government Inspector of Railways and make such additional investigation as may be necessary and state its findings as to the causes of the said accident and the person or persons, if any, responsible therefor. The Commission of Enquiry submitted its report which was considered in detail by the Ministry of Railways and action was taken on it vide Resolution No. 6062-TT dated 11-5-57.

The more important of the other recommendations of the Government Inspector of Railways were covered in the terms of reference of a Committee of Engineers which was appointed with Shri Venkataram as Chairman to examine the question of adequacy of waterways of bridges on the ex-Nizam State Railway. The recommendations

of this Committee have been received. Copies of the Report have been placed in the Library of the House. The Report is under examination of the Board; meanwhile the Railway Administration have been told to implement such of the recommendations as are readily acceptable.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the 14 recommendations made by the Government Inspector himself have been considered by the Administration and any effect given to them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They have been considered. It has been possible to take action on some of them. Some of the recommendations are still under consideration.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: My question is specifically about the recommendations made by the Government Inspector of Railways. It is only confined to that particular issue. These recommendations were made more than a year ago. May I know which of the recommendations have been accepted, which have not been accepted and what are the reasons for that?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is a very long statement, Sir, about 15 recommendations. If you so desire, I shall read out.

Mr. Speaker: There are 15 recommendations.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: A statement could have been furnished to me or laid on the Table of the House. The question specifically relates to these recommendations. There are only 14, not 15 recommendations. I want to know which of the 14 have been accepted. May I know which of them have not been accepted?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No. (1) Accepted; No. (2) Accepted; No. (3).....

Shri Moksiddin: Does it carry any meaning to us?

Mr. Speaker: Whoever is interested in such questions must go to the