

LOK SABHA

Monday, 25th November, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Electric Trains

*420. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to run electric trains between Howrah and Sheorapauli strip in Howrah Burdwan sections on the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, when the train service is expected to commence in 1957; and

(c) how it compare in cost with trains which run on coal?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The first electric suburban train hauled by electric locomotive is expected to be run by the end of this month between Howrah Sheorapauli of Howrah Burdwan sections.

(c) The electric trains are more economical than steam trains.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोयले से जो गाड़ी चलती है उससे स्टीम से चलने वाली गाड़ी में कम खर्चा पड़ता है। ऐसी सूरत में क्या सरकार हावड़ा से लेकर दिल्ली तक इस प्रकार की कोई गाड़ी चलाने की सोच रही है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : हावड़ा से दिल्ली तक इस तरह की गाड़ी चलाने की कोई योजना नहीं है। अलबत्ता हावड़ा से मुगलसराय तक चलाने की बात को हम सोच रहे हैं। इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रेन चलाने में बहुत खर्चा होता है और इस वक्त हमारे खराबे इतने नहीं हैं कि इस किस्म की फिजूलखर्ची कर सकें।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : पहले तो माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि खर्चा कम पड़ता है लेकिन दुबारा कहा कि खर्चा ज्यादा पड़ता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये दोनों बात कैसे सम्भव हो सकती है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : यह मैंने इसलिये कहा कि जो चलाने में खर्चा होता है वह कम होता है लेकिन उसको चलाने का बन्दोबस्त करने के लिये खर्चा बहुत काफी होता है।

Shri Damani: May I know what is the revised cost of this scheme and when it will be completed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Which scheme?

Shri Damani: This electrification.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This scheme is split into various phases. The first phase is up to Burdwan. The cost sanctioned for that is Rs. 11.84 crores. We hope that this will be ready by the end of 1959.

Shri Damani: As Rajasthan is the most backward area as far as railways are concerned, in view of this shortage, will the hon. Minister open new lines in that area to meet the traffic which will increase after the irrigation works are completed?

Mr. Speaker: These are suggestions for action.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what will be the frequency of these trains? How many times will they run more than steam traction?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is a matter of very minute detail. I could not give him the details. But, the frequency will be considerably more.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if it was a fact that the trains were scheduled to start running in November and then it had to be postponed? Are the Government satisfied that there will be no further postponement?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The trains were scheduled to run in November. I hope some will still run in November.

Some Hon. Members: It was earlier.

Shri Biren Roy: Is it a fact that the present electric trains are going to be D.C. and a further expenditure is going to be incurred to change them into A.C. at a later date?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is correct. In the first phase, that is, up to Burdwan, the electric trains are going to be run on D.C. current. Orders for this stock were placed in 1954. At that time, A.C. traction was still not developed well enough. Later on, we found that A.C. traction is much cheaper and much more efficient. Therefore, from Burdwan to Mogulsarai we propose running the trains on A.C. current. Later on, when we are in a position to change it,—it will take about 2½ years—we propose to change the D.C. system on this section to A.C. and transfer the stock from Howrah-Burdwan section to the Central or Western Railway.

Report of Technical Consultants of World Bank

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*421. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Consultants of the World Bank who made a study of the Railway system in India have submitted any report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the important features of the report?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir, the Technical Consultants after study made the report to the World Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether a copy of the report has been made available to the Government of India, that is, a copy of the report that has been submitted to the World Bank?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No, Sir. That report has been submitted direct to the World Bank.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the contents of the report have been sent by the World Bank to the Government of India for consideration?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are aware of some of the contents. But the entire report is not available to us.

Shri Damani: May I know whether this assistance is given free by the World Bank or we are charged?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We had requested for a loan. The World Bank sent a team of their experts to come and study the conditions on our Railways. The expenditure on that team or expenses in terms of foreign currency is paid by the World Bank and a part of the expenses in India are borne by us.

Shri Tangamani: From the question and answer I understand that the technicians studied the railway system in this country. Are we to take it that no report will be made available to the Government of India?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I did not say that it will not be made available to us at a later date. What I said