

the Hirakud irrigated area has been postponed, and may I know what conditions were not fulfilled in that case so that no licence was issued?

Shri A. P. Jain: The condition in the case of a sugar factory is that an application for grant of a licence will be considered only after the farmers have raised Rs. 8 lakhs of share capital. In this particular case that amount was not raised.

Railway Advisory Committees

*1999. **Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was received from the All India Federation of Transport Users Association, Bombay, for direct representation of the Passengers Associations on the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee and the National Railway Users' Consultative Council; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) The suggestion made in the representation was duly considered, but it was not accepted.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: May I know whether any principles or rules are prescribed by the Government governing representation on zonal consultative committees?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Yes, Sir. There are three different committees, the district committee, the zonal committee and the national council. There are certain rules with regard to these, as to their composition and their functions.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I am asking whether, to enable the Government to decide which particular body shall be represented on zonal committees, the Government have laid down any principles governing representation on these committees?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Certain regulations have been prescribed about the nature of representation. Certain categories have been prescribed. Who comes under those categories will be duly considered by the Ministry, and it will be found out whether they are truly representative and whether they can function properly. On this basis they will be elected properly.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Why is it that representation was denied to the All-India Federation of Transport Users' Association, Bombay?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: The point is this. So far as the divisional committees are concerned, there is provision made for two seats for passengers' associations. The difficulty about these passengers' associations is that they are localised. They have got interests only in the suburban railways. They are not broad-based, and often-times it has been found that these passengers' associations represent the views of only a handful. Therefore, the passengers' associations are represented only on the divisional committees directly. So far as the zonal and the national committees are concerned, they can always be elected by the regional committees, and they can come by indirect election.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know if any regional railway users' committee has been formed for the newly created North-Eastern Frontier Railway Zone?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Not that I am aware of. I will require notice.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Are Government aware that certain private individuals who cultivate railway officials in the Southern Railway manage to get nominations to the zonal committee, though they do not represent any representative association or group of persons interested in railway conditions?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I am not prepared to accept the allegations, but I believe all these are done on merit.

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that representation is not

given to the Hubli-Hyderabad, Sholapur Pradesh passenger associations on the divisional railway users' consultative committee as reconstructed this year, and if so may I know the reasons?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I am sorry I have not got the information. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the zonal committee for the Southern Railway has been formed; if so, how many names are common in the previous and the new lists?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: We have not analysed it. I require notice.

Shri Tangamani: Has that new committee been formed?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants notice.

Shri Tangamani: The question is whether the council has been formed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he had known a part of it, he must have answered that part of it at least.

Sleepers for Railways

*2000. **Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of sleepers were being procured from Kashmir State to meet the requirements of the Railways;

(b) whether there has been any reduction in the supply of timber sleepers from Kashmir during the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswami): (a) Yes, Sir. The State is supplying sleepers to the Indian Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) Frequent floods in the Valleys resulting in washing away lakhs of cubic feet of sawn timber to Pakistan.

(ii) Increase in cost of labour wages.

(d) The matter has been jointly examined in detail with the State Government and an agreement has been reached with them for supply of 4,15,000 sleepers during the period January 1958 to October 1959.

Shri Yajnik: May I know how many sleepers have been imported from Kashmir for railway purposes during the last two years?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I can give him for three years. The receipts during the last three years from Jammu and Kashmir were as follows:

1955-56	..	1,37,000 numbers
1956-57	..	1,25,000 numbers
1957-58	..	72,000 numbers

Shri Yajnik: May I know if this drastic reduction in the import of timber or sleepers is due to the negligence of the Kashmir Government, or is it due to the negligence of the Railway Ministry in not getting this timber or sleepers in time?

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: I have already stated the reasons why we are not able to get enough.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the Railway Ministry is importing a good number of sleepers from foreign countries because we are short, and if so, may I know the reasons for refusing the offer of the Andhra Pradesh Government for the supply of timber of particular sizes?

Shri S. Y. Ramaswami: Owing to the Second Five Year Plan, there is all round demand for timber, and the position has worsened generally in the eastern countries. Now, we require about 230 lakhs of sleepers. All of this we are not able to procure from our own country during the Second Plan. Therefore, we have programmed to import wooden sleepers about 42. lakhs, from abroad.