

Shri Bishwanath Roy: That is meant for tube-wells.

Mr. Speaker: Are the tube-wells intended for railway purposes?

Shri Tyagi: Passengers take water.

Mr. Speaker: That is another matter.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): We can electrify only those stations where there are power houses in the town itself. It is not possible to electrify the railway stations from the tube-well electricity. Unless there is proper meter arrangement, how is the Railway going to be charged and how are we going to make payment for the electric supply?

Shri Bishwanath Roy: There is a scheme for electrifying the villages also from those connections.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In that case wherever there is electricity supply in the locality and there is proper arrangement for metering, those stations will be taken up.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: In the district of Saran in Bihar there is electricity available from Mirganj to Chapra up to Sonepur. Will the Railway Minister consider the desirability of connecting the stations with that electricity?

Mr. Speaker: It is only yesterday that I suggested that hon. Members who did not take part in the debate may send a suggestion. It should be one of the suggestions. There are thousands of railway stations in this country.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: The hon. Minister has said that he will connect the railway stations with electricity.

Mr. Speaker: I agree. Every hon. Member here can give a number of instances as to where electricity is available and the station is not connected with it.

TELCO Locomotives

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*845. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Bhadauria:
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Locomotives to be supplied by Telco to the Railways during 1958-59 has been fixed; and

(b) if so, what is that price per locomotive?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir, the matter is still under negotiation with the firm.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government have received the new price quoted by Telco and whether that price is comparable to the price of locomotives that are imported here?

Mr. Speaker: We had a discussion on this the other day.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The new price was to come into force from 1st April, 1958. The price quoted by them is Rs. 4,19,000.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: From the statement furnished by the hon. Minister to Starred Question No. 1165 dated 28th August 1957, I find that 85 LG Japanese made locomotives were actually to be purchased at Rs. 3,01,000. Still, even after that, the price they are quoting seems to be higher than the Japanese price. How is it so?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have placed no orders for no import of locomotives in recent years. Orders were placed some time ago. But this question was raised and the answer was given to that. For the next price period, Telcos have submitted their quotations. Negotiations are going on and they have already come

down much below what has been indicated by the Deputy Minister. Still negotiations are going on. And I think it will be in the public interest not to go into details as to the stage at which the negotiations are.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know how the present price of Telcos compares with that of foreign locomotives and also with Chittaranjan?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have said, as regards imported locomotives we have ordered no locomotives in recent years, for the last two to three years. Therefore there is no reliable data with which to compare the prices.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We had imported.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We had ordered few years back. As regards comparison with Chittaranjan, I will say that till our negotiations have been finalised I will not hazard and comparison at present.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Are these locomotives imported from Japan and purchased from Telco of the same specification and traction power?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I said we have placed no order for import of locomotives during the last two or three years.

Shri Tyagi: Are Government taking into confidence or consultation the Tariff Commission in the matter of assessing the actual cost price of these locomotives manufactured in Telco?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As a matter of fact, for the present price period the Tariff Commission went into that question. It was only on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission that the price was determined for the present price period. For the next price period of course there is no intention to ask the Tariff Commission. Negotiations are going on between the Railway Board and Telco,

and let us hope that we will come to a certain agreement.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the German Combine who are collaborating with Telcos originally supplied these locomotives to our Indian Railways and, if so, at what price, and how that price compares with the price quoted by Telco? Is there a big variation?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If we look to the world market at present and take into consideration the price of locomotives or any commodity supplied a few years ago, the present prices will naturally be higher.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is there any reason for the delay in the negotiations, such as difference of opinion between Government and Telco as to the cost? Is that the reason for the delay in the matter? Has Government quoted some price?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Negotiation means that they quote something, we suggest something, then they quote something—that means negotiation.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Has Government thought of nationalising Telcos if they cannot come to an agreement with them?

Mr. Speaker: These are all arguments.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not know how it comes, that if they do not come to an agreement they nationalise.

Shri Tangamani: The Deputy Minister stated that Telcos have quoted Rs. 4,19,000. May I know whether U.K. or Canada have quoted that price for 1958-59?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have no tenders from the U.K. or Canada. Therefore, we have no data to compare.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a pamphlet 'Facts about Telco' issued by them and whether the facts are correct and if

not correct, what steps are taken to correct them?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: How that question arises out of this question?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It was stated on the floor of the House by some Members which has now been contradicted by the Managing Director.

Mr. Speaker: We shall have a discussion of the Administration report of the Telco one day. The hon. Member need not wait till the hon. Minister says that it does not arise. Merely because Railway is mentioned, does it apply to all Railways? Next question.

Some Hon. Members: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions.

Ship-building Industry

*348. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Transport and Communications Minister has recently stated that if any requests were made by the private sector for the establishment of a ship-building yard, they would be considered on merits; and

(b) whether this envisaged a reconsideration of the Industrial Policy Resolution in regard to the ship-building industry, and, if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No. Any requests received from the Private Sector will have to be considered in the light of the criteria laid down in the Industrial Policy Resolution for securing the co-operation of private enterprise, namely, that the Government should be satisfied that the participation of private enterprise is necessary in the national interests and that it ensures the re-

quisite powers to Government to guide the policy and control the operations of the undertaking.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Is it not a fact that the Industrial Policy Resolution envisages that the initiative, if any, will have to be taken not by the private sector but by the public sector and if the Government feels it necessary, it may seek the co-operation of private interests, but that the initiative cannot come from the private sector?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think this is subject to two considerations. If there is already an industry existing, it can expand and to that extent, they can convert this into a ship-building yard. The other thing is the possibility and desirability of inviting private participation also which can be explored by the Government subject to the condition, again, that the control and guiding of policy remains in the hands of the Government.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I crave your indulgence, Sir, and read what the Planning Commission report says in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: What is the quarrel, I cannot understand. This is a question of industrial policy. Unfortunately, however long hon. Members might have been here, they are trying to utilise this Question-hour for statements of policy. They must only ask questions regarding facts. As regards statement of policy, the hon. Member will catch my eye and I will give opportunity for a general discussion.

Shri Bimal Ghose: I will raise a half-an-hour discussion.

Mr. Speaker: When it comes up, let me see.

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): rose—

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister is ready to reply.