

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have already passed on to another question.

Delhi-Mathura Railway Line

*958. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the doubling of Delhi-Mathura line will be completed;

(b) how many miles have been covered so far; and

(c) whether the target date has already been crossed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) About June, 1958.

(b) 56 miles, including 13 miles recently opened.

(c) No, the target date is October, 1958.

Shri Heda: Does the hon. Minister mean that only 28 miles have been doubled or have remained out of the total doubling portion between Mathura and Delhi?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question was how many miles have been covered so far. I have said, 56 miles including 13 miles recently opened.

Shri Raghunath Singh: How many miles remain to be covered? That is what we want to know.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The total length of the line is 87.75 miles.

Shri Heda: May I know whether the work is going on according to schedule or we are lagging behind?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I have just submitted, it was programmed to be finished in October 1958. Now, we hope to finish it by June. It is well ahead of schedule.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to hon. Members that whenever they get any representations from outsiders not belonging to their own States, they may pass them on to

Members of that State so that supplementaries may be informed. I am not saying that Shri Heda's supplementaries are not informed.

Shri Heda: It directly concerns me; I have to go by this line only.

Shri Raghunath Singh: But, we represent the whole of India.

Mr. Speaker: I agree. Hon. Members leave their own constituencies and go to Cape Comorin. I am aware that we decide here for the whole of India. The difficulty arises like this. It is not merely technical. Some hon. Members put a question regarding another State and then they are not able to follow it up intelligently. When the hon. Minister gives one answer the hon. Member has to keep quiet unless some other hon. Member takes it up. Therefore, as far as questions of purely local significance are concerned, local Members may have an advantage and such questions may therefore, be passed on to them.

Shri Heda: Sir, I am a Member of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee and I also use this line.

Mr. Speaker: There is no bar to any hon. Member putting any question about any place in India.

Class IV Railway Employees

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{ **Shri Bhakt Darshan:**
 { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
 { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 *960. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
 { **Shri Tangamani:**
 { **Shrimati Ila Falchoudhuri:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 847 on the 8th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to review channels of promotion of Class IV Railway employees within their own class and to Class III has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations;

(c) whether the Railway Board have examined the same; and

(d) if so, the nature of decision arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

श्री अक्षय दत्त : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इतनी देरी क्यों हो रही है क्योंकि पहले उत्तर दिया गया था कि नवम्बर तक रिपोर्ट आ जायेगी, बाद में कहा गया था कि फरवरी में रिपोर्ट आ जायेगी, अब मार्च में भी रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : इसका बहुत हद तक दारोमदार जो कमेटी है उस पर है। हमारी यह तबक्का थी कि ६ महीने के अन्दर अन्दर वह काम कर सकेंगे, लेकिन इस कमेटी के नौ मम्बरों में से ६ रेलवे के आफिसर्स हैं जिनको अपना काम भी करना पड़ता है और यह काम भी करना पड़ता है। इस वजह से जैसा खयाल था उससे ज्यादा वक्त लग गया है। लेकिन उम्मीद है कि मार्च के अखिर तक वह रिपोर्ट आ जायेगी।

Shri Tangamani: This Tapse Committee was appointed some 9 months ago; and, even during the Railway Budget the Railway Minister said the Committee's report will be published very soon. May I know.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is putting the same question as the other hon. Member. The hon. Minister has replied that a number of members of the Committee are officers and they have to do their duties and attend to this committee also. If an hon. Member does not understand the answer given, it is always open to him to tell me immediately and I will ask the answer to be repeated in English.

Shri Tangamani: May I know the various centres which this committee has visited during the last 9 months and whether they have received representations from the trade union organisation also?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Minister go on narrating all the centres one after the other all over India?

Shri Tangamani: What are the various zones?

Mr. Speaker: The question must be modelled that way.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The committee has been out on 4 occasions, each time for about a fortnight. They have been visiting almost all the zones. They issued a questionnaire and they also met representatives of various unions and they have been considering whatever has been placed before them.

Shri Tangamani: May I know what are the terms of reference?

Mr. Speaker: Copies of the terms of reference, I think, are available in the Library.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: If you will permit me, I will take half a minute to answer it.

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows:

1. To examine the existing channels of promotion for class IV staff and to determine new channels of promotion, preferably for uniform application over all the Indian Railways;
2. To determine the conditions of eligibility of staff for promotion;
3. To prescribe the manner in which the employees should be selected for promotion; and
4. To prescribe the training, if any, that would be given to selected employees before being promoted and additional training facilities over and above those existing at present that should be provided.

श्री अक्षय दत्त : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि बीजे दरजे के कर्मचारियों

की कुल कितनी संख्या है जिनके बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है और तीसरी श्रेणी में उनके प्रमोशन में क्या कठिनाई है।

Mr. Speaker: The whole matter relates to their promotion to class III amongst themselves.

श्री ब्रह्म दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चौथी श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों की इस समय संख्या कितनी है और उनकी तीसरी श्रेणी में प्रमोशन देने में क्या अड़चन है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : यह तो बड़ा सवाल है। इसके लिये तो अलाहिदा नोटिस चाहिये।

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the questionnaire to which the hon. Minister referred has also been sent to some representatives of the public and the Members of Parliament?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. In fact, we were directed by your nonoured self to ask the committee to send copies of the questionnaire to the Members of Parliament. We took immediate action and informed the Secretary of the Committee that this was your wish.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest that, whenever committees or commissions of enquiry are appointed whose reports this House will ultimately take notice of, questionnaires that are sent to outsiders should also be sent to Members of Parliament. It must be made a rule. The discontinuance will largely depend upon the answers the hon. Members give.

Shri Tangamani: We should have information.

Mr. Speaker: Again, why should terms of reference be asked again and again on the floor of the House? They are published in notifications. Formerly, I think, they used to send copies of the Gazette to every Member of Parliament. These notifications may be sent. Government may consider the desirability of sending copies of

these notifications to all Members so that they will not again and again ask for the terms of reference when other questions have to be asked.

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): The Gazette is received by everyone.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): No, no.

Shri Karmarkar: They are getting.

Mr. Speaker: If they are getting, it is all right.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The hon. Minister said that he has already informed the committee and asked them to send copies of the questionnaire to Members of Parliament. But, we have not received any copies of the questionnaire. Would the Minister be pleased to remind the Committee again?

Mr. Speaker: The Committee may be asked to send the questionnaire now if not already sent.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It was your direction that the Minister should pass on that suggestion to the Committee. We passed on that suggestion to the Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I can only suggest that if the Committee does not carry out the direction the Ministry should type a number of copies and send them round to Members. What is the meaning of ignoring the Members of Parliament who have the ultimate say in this matter, and saying that the Committee was not caring for their advice and had not sent even the questionnaire? It is rather strange. He will make an enquiry. Most of the members or six of them are officials of the railways. I cannot understand how they can disobey the orders of the Government.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, the Committee had more or less completed its deliberations and is in the process of drafting the report. Is it your wish that the questionnaire should be sent even now?

Mr. Speaker: It does not appear that any useful purpose would be served at this particular stage. The matter will come up before the House and the hon. Members will have an idea of the questionnaire and the report also. In all such cases there is no meaning in ignoring the Members of Parliament. They have the final say. Unless we ourselves have regard for the Members of Parliament and Parliament as a whole, the country at large would not have any regard for the topmost Assembly. This is the biggest and the most powerful Assembly of Assemblies in this country. Members of Parliament, whatever they may be.... (Laughter) No, no. We are not judging every Member. It is not that every Member of Parliament in any Parliament is expected to know everything in the world and be specialised in every subject. That is all that I meant. Generally, they must be acquainted with everything; they must be informed. Some of them may send a reply to it while some of them may not. That ought not to be the reason for withholding the questionnaire.

Explosion of Fire Crackers at Renigunta

*963. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 23 cases of fire crackers were burnt by the Railway authorities at Renigunta Station on the 16th October, 1957;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the consignees were compensated for the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, but not by the Railway authorities. They were destroyed by the Dy. Chief Inspector of Explosives.

(b) These were destroyed by the Dy. Chief Inspector of Explosives in the interest of public safety under Rule 107 of the Indian Explosives Rules, 1940, as these consignments

contained prohibited or unauthorised explosive composition.

(c) No.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether they were destroyed with the permission of the railway authorities or whether the railway authorities knew about them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They were not destroyed with permission of the railway authorities. The railway authorities were fully aware of the situation. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Explosives thought that they were dangerous and he had the authority under the Explosives Act to destroy them. It was in accordance with the instructions on the subject.

Shri Tangamani: There was a discussion on the explosions during the last session. We were told that only the amorces caused this explosion. May I know whether only the amorces were destroyed or even the crackers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Not only the amorces but the other explosive material including crackers which contained a greater proportion of explosive material than was considered safe. It contained a much higher percentage of explosive substance in it.

Shri Achar: May I know whether any notice was given to consignees or consignors before destruction?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Under the instructions for the destruction of such material, the Deputy Chief Inspector of Explosives is supposed to keep a sample of the substance that was destroyed. He is also supposed to hand over a portion of that sample to the owner of those consignments so that if they wish to raise any objection later on, they can do so and the owners were informed.

Mr. Speaker: That is after destruction. The hon. Member wants to know whether before destruction an opportunity was given to the consignors to state his own objections, if any.