

provision of whistle boards at all unmanned level-crossings, as recommended by the Accident Reviewing Committee, is being carried out by the railways on a programmed basis.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know the expenditure that will be involved in carrying out this plan throughout the country?

Shri. Shahnawaz Khan: I shall require separate notice.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know how long it will take to man all these level-crossings, and what the phase of the plan is and over how many years it is spread?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: All the level-crossings do not have to be manned; level-crossings are manned where it is necessary.

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Deputy Minister just now stated that whistle boards were going to be provided at all unmanned level-crossings. May I know the period of time over which the plan is being phased, and by what time the plan will be completed?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The question is one of provision of whistle boards, that is, wooden boards with the word 'Whistle' in big letters written on it. That is progressing very rapidly, and we hope that in the course of the next few months all unmanned level-crossings will have whistle boards.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know how many unmanned level-crossings have so far been provided with those boards?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Very nearly 5,000.

Railway Employees under suspension

*1957. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 943 on the 17th August, 1957 regarding suspension of employees under the Railway Services

(Safeguarding of National Security) Rules and state:

(a) whether the review of 52 cases of suspension of Railway employees has since been completed; and

(b) if so, how many of them have been re-instated?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The review has been completed in 5 cases and is progressing in the remaining cases.

(b) One.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the reason for the delay, because the whole thing has been hanging fire for well over nine years now?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The reasons for the delay are perhaps very well known to my hon. friends. Some of these cases were referred to various law courts, and certain High Courts gave certain judgments, and we had to conform to those judgments. That is the reason why there has been some delay. But as the Minister promised here in the House, the cases are being reviewed very rapidly and we hope that in the course of the next few months, we shall have finalised all these cases.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Out of the five cases where final decision has been taken, one has been reinstated. May I know the nature of decision arrived at in regard to the other four?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Termination of services.

Shri Tangamanl: As regards these 52 cases, most of them are cases pending from 1948, and most of them were also cases in the ex-S.I.R. The Deputy Minister stated that there was delay because of certain proceedings in the law courts. May I know whether there are cases which are delayed because of these law courts, and if so, how many cases there are of that nature out of these 52?

Shri Shahawaz Khan: Since there are 52 cases, it will take too long for me to give out every single detail of every single case. Out of 52 cases, 5 have been dealt with; about 30 cases are now under review, and we hope that we shall be able to take a decision very soon. That leaves about 17 other cases, and those have to be finalised by the Board.

Shri Tangamani: May I know when the cases of these 30 workers will be finalised?

Shri Shahawaz Khan: We have finalised those cases in the Railway Ministry, and they have been sent to the Home Ministry for their final okay.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that these are extraordinary cases, and these persons are eligible only for one-fourth of their wages as subsistence allowance, and also in view of the fact that they have been under suspension for a long time, may I know whether Government propose to increase the quantum of subsistence allowance?

Shri Shahawaz Khan: No, we shall have to abide by the existing rules.

Purchase of Ships from Japan

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*1058. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri V. P. Nayar:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to buy ships from Japan;

(b) if so, the tonnage of ships to be purchased from there; and

(c) the terms on which this purchase has been finalised?

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

(b) and (c). The tonnage of ships to be purchased and the terms of purchase have not yet been finalised.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any negotiations in this regard are going on at present, and to what extent the purchase of ships from Japan will meet the tonnage requirements of the country at present?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Out of the yen credit that may be available as a result of this deal, we hope that we shall be able to get three ships, and may be, by future negotiations and the talks which are going on, we may be able to acquire some more ships.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what are the indications of prices of the Japanese ships and what are the indications about the possible delivery time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I said, the overall cost for the three ships may be about £3 million. As regards delivery time, I think they will be delivered by next year.

Shri Ranga: Would there be considerable difference in the price that we would have to pay for the Japanese ships when compared with the price of any ships, that we might have to purchase from Europe?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think there is going to be much difference in that.

Shri Ranga: Then what is the special advantage? Is it because that we are finding it difficult to get ships from Europe that we are buying from Japan or is it because that there is any special advantage in purchasing them from Japan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The evident advantage is the yen credit.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want the Government as a matter of policy only to go to the west and not to the east?

Shri Ranga: No, no. What is the special advantage?

Mr. Speaker: There is no advantage.

Shri Ranga: If it is not equal, it is better.