

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The system has been in force for a long time on some Railways and it has been extended to the other Railways during the past few months.

(c) No extra expenditure is involved.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether this system of handing over telegrams to the travelling passengers has been extended to all the regions in the Southern Railway?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes; we have issued instructions to that effect.

Shri B. Das Gupta: May I know whether this handing over of telegrams has been extended to the third class passengers also?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, Sir; anybody can be addressed in the train and certain information has to be given. In the case of third class passengers, one of the railway employees carries the telegram and walks alongside the train shouting the name of the addressee; and, if he can locate the addressee, he hands over the telegram.

Contract of the French Consultants of the Hindustan Shipyard

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*1066. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Vajpayee:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the French consultants of the Hindustan Shipyard have been served with a six-month notice of termination of their contract;

(b) if so, when the notice was given; and

(c) who will replace the French consultants?

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

(b) 2nd January, 1958.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Shipyard (Private) Ltd.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : आपने फ्रेंच लोगों को नोटिस दी है और वह अब जा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनके स्थान पर कौन से कारपोरेशन या फर्म को या कौन से लोगों को शिपयार्ड का काम देने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जैसा मैंने अभी निवेदन किया है, यह प्रश्न अभी विचाराधीन है और जब तक इस पर कोई निर्णय न हो जाये मेरे लिए कुछ कहना सम्भव नहीं है।

Shri Ranga: Have we taken any steps to get some of our own Indians trained so that they might be able to take at least one or two of the places of these Frenchmen?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as that is concerned, this was one of the terms that the present consultants will also train our people in this particular industry.

Shri Ranga: What is the present position? Have we succeeded in getting anyone trained at all to the requisite level?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are getting training. About that also, I have given facts and figures—some statistics—about the number of people already trained by these men in their yards.

Shrimati Benuka Ray: Is it a fact that expert Indian advice was contrary to the French consultant's advice about the building of the Andamans and that advice was overruled though it was available in the country?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a matter of enquiry. But, I would like to place all the facts before the House at the earliest opportunity because that will

clear up some misunderstanding on that point.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know whether it is a fact that Government is thinking in terms of doing away with all consultants and having only Indian technicians to take charge of the shipyard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In view of the fact that we do require the technical know-how and the engineering skill with regard to the manufacture of ships, we will have to have some consultants from foreign countries.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: My question was to elicit information as to whether there is not sufficient technical skill in the country to see that only Indians are put in charge of the shipyard.

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is exactly what we require. Therefore, we will have to go to some other country to get the required skill.

Shri Joachim Alva: When terminating the services of the French consultants, will Government be able to assess the actual loss incurred on the services of these people during the entire period? Have we come to any conclusion about it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These people came for four specific purposes. One was to give technical advice in regard to the organisation, development and management of the shipyard. I would only give a few facts and figures about what they have done. They have manufactured as many as 10 ships during this period, from 1952 to 31-12-1957; and, all of them are seaworthy, stable and running on our overseas trade.

Apart from that, they have done several acts in regard to the organisation and development of the yard. So, I think, the question of loss or otherwise in regard to the general discharge of their obligations does hardly arise.

The question about the Andamans is a separate question and it will be examined on the basis of the report before the Transport Board.

Shri Ranga: Have we been negotiating with the Japanese Government or Japanese consultants interested in this matter as to whether we can possibly get suitable consultants from Japan?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The matter is still under consideration. We have contacted one or two countries in this regard. But, we have not come to any final conclusion. This is a somewhat delicate matter because we must select the best firm as our consultants. Japan will also be borne in mind; but, at the present moment, we cannot say which country it will be.

Shri Goray: Is it not a fact that one of our foremost marine engineers, Mr. Patel, had to resign from this shipyard because his views were not heeded?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This matter was, perhaps, raised previously also by the hon. Member and I had said that this matter has been taken up by that committee of enquiry which we have appointed. And, as my colleague has said, the House will be acquainted with all the facts of the matter. And, as far as I know—I have not fully gone into the report—what the hon. Member has said is not, perhaps, correct.

Procurement of Foodgrains in Manipur

*1067. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money placed at the disposal of Manipur Administration for procuring foodgrains on behalf of the Government of India in 1957-58; and

(b) the quantity of rice and paddy procured in 1957-58 so far by the Manipur Administration?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Rs. 12.15 lakhs.