

LOK SABHA

Monday, 15th September, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Incidents of "Alarm Chain" Pulling

*1223. Shri Damani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many incidents of "Alarm Chain" pulling have so far occurred on the Indian Railways during 1958;

(b) how many of these caused unjustified stoppage; and

(c) what action is being taken to avoid misuse of the "Alarm Chain"?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 26,749 upto June, 1958.

(b) 23,096.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 71]

Shri Damani: May I know in which class and in which railway zone the pulling of alarm chains has been excessive, and how many trains were delayed due to this trouble?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Chains are mostly pulled from third class compartments, but occasionally ticketless travellers enter first class compartments also and pull chains from there. The zones mostly affected are: Eastern Railway, South-Eastern Railway and North-Eastern Railway.

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Shri Damani: May I know whether there is a move that the alarm chain facility has to be discontinued; if so, what other safety measures are being considered?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is no proposal to do away with the alarm chain on a wholesale basis, but we had to resort to this extreme step on sections which are very badly affected, and we have had to blank off alarm chains on certain sections only.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the Government have any information as to the number of incidents of alarm chain pulling that were done with the avowed intention of looting and sabotage?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have no separate statistics for that, because it is very difficult to determine the intention of the chain puller; but in most cases the intention is to get away without paying the fare.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the Government have prepared any list showing the number of such incidents which resulted in looting and sabotage?

Mr. Speaker: If looting and sabotage had followed the pulling of alarm chains on certain occasions, the hon. Member wants to know whether the number of such incidents has been maintained separately.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: A few such incidents have come to our notice.

Shri Goray: May I know whether the Government have disconnected the alarm chains on the Central Railway?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir.

Shri Goray: I was a victim of this, that is why I put that question.

Mr. Speaker: Possibly it was not working properly.

Shri Tangamani: We find from the statement that more than 23,000 cases of unjustified alarm chain pulling occurred in two or three railway zones. As a result of the action taken, may I know how many prosecutions have been launched?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: In the year 1958, up to June, 392 prosecutions were launched.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total amount realised?

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that only about 400 prosecutions have been launched. May I know what happened to the other cases?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: People got away after pulling the chain before the railway servants could reach the spot.

Afforestation in Delhi

*1224. **Shri Naval Prabhakar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made with regard to afforestation in Delhi; and

(b) the acreage of land used for this purpose?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

A Forest Officer was appointed in 1946 to take up afforestation of Delhi village waste lands by organising Co-operative Societies. In 1950 the staff was strengthened and a Forest Ranger, an additional Forester, six Forest Guards, and one Mali were appointed to extend this work. By the end of the First Five Year Plan, seven Co-operative Societies were organised and nearly 800 acres were actually afforested.

Under the Second Five Year Plan, four Schemes have been formulated to further intensify the work of afforestation. These Schemes aim at afforestation along Jamuna Banks to bind the soil, development of Northern and Southern ridges, planting trees along irrigation channels, Railway tracts, road sides etc. At present there is a total area of 5,577 acres for afforestation, of which 2,047 acres have been actually afforested so far.

(b) 5,577 acres.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि रिज के अतिरिक्त कहां कहां पर इस तरह का कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है और उस कार्यक्रम को पूरा करने में कितना समय लगेगा ?

डा० पं० शा० देवामुख : सैंकेंड फाइव इयर प्लान में हम ने जमुना बैंक पर एफारस्टेशन के लिए १.६ लाख रुपये का प्राविजन किया है और दो हजार एकड़ जमीन पर एफारस्टेशन करने का विचार किया है। नार्दर्न और रिजिड के लिए ३.८ लाख रुपया रखा गया है और वहां पर दो हजार एकड़ जमीन पर जंगल लगाये जायेंगे।

Then, planting trees along irrigation channels, railway tracks and road sides—Rs. 0.95 lakhs, 500 acres; afforestation and soil conservation in Aravali Hills, south of Delhi—Rs. 2.25 lakhs, 2,000 acres.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what attempts are being made to prevent the desert slowly encroaching upon Delhi?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have quite a big plan so far as this matter is concerned, and we are trying to stop the spread of desert.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In the statement it is said that more than 2,000 acres of land has been afforested and 3,000 acres of land is going to be afforested. May I know what has been the effect, whether we have been