

behalf with the WEP projects, for, one part of these projects connected with the WEP projects will be under the project implementation committee, while the other part will be under only an advisory committee? May I know how Government are going to resolve this anomaly?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** If I understand the hon. Member correctly, I believe he is referring to the integrated programme between the Ministry of Community Development and the Central Social Welfare Board. There is some difficulty about bringing an integrated approach to the whole question. We are studying this question with the Central Social Welfare Board.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In spite of whatever the Minister has said about this community development movement working through non-official organisations at the district and block levels, it is still the officials who dominate, and that is one of the reasons for the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people. Is that so?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** The distance between the official *raj* and the people's *raj* is a very long one, and the mode of transport in our villages still is the bullock-cart. So, the hon. Member will bear with us.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Why not provide them with jeep cars?

**Shri Tangamani:** The hon. Minister said that directions had been sent that in all these block development committees there must be a non-official president or chairman. May I know how many blocks have so far accepted this, and how many have not accepted it?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** According to the information received by us till date, it is the Andhra State and Madhya Pradesh State that have issued definite instructions in this behalf. The other States are also going ahead.

### Conversion of Miraj-Barsi Railway into Metre Gauge

\*1488. { **Shri Dige:**  
**Shri D. A. Katti:**  
**Shri Manay:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2023 on the 19th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about conversion of Miraj-Barsi Railway into metre-gauge during the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the question of diverting the said Railway line via Athni has been finally decided; and

(c) if not, by what time final decision is likely to be taken?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Miraj-Kurudwadi section of the Barsi Light Railway. No decision has yet been taken as the Survey Report is still awaited.

(b) No, Sir. The Railway has investigated the suggestion but a final decision on the diversion will have to await the receipt of Survey Report.

(c) It is too early to say.

**Shri Sugandhi:** May I know whether this conversion from narrow gauge to broad gauge forms part of the core of the Plan?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** No, it is far away from the core of the Plan.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** What will be the estimated cost for the conversion of the Miraj-Barsi Railway into metre gauge and into broad gauge?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I do not have the figures for the metre gauge. I have only for broad gauge. With regard to Kurudwadi-Miraj section the estimate was Rs. 907 lakhs. That is the position. We do not have the estimate for the metre gauge yet.

**Shri Assar:** The Poona-Miraj line was sanctioned for conversion to broad gauge. May I know when the work is to be taken up?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** It does not arise out of this, Sir.

### Contracts

\*1490. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Railway be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contractors who were given contract for the assembly of wagons at Waltair have declared a lock-out since April, 1958;

(b) if so, how this lock-out has affected the assembly of wagons; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) 1386 wagons are awaiting to be assembled.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** May I know the reason why this lock-out was declared and also who will be responsible for the demurrage to be paid to the shipping companies for these wagons that are awaiting to be assembled?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The lock-out was declared as a result of labour trouble. The question of imposing any penalties for demurrage is still under consideration.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** More than a year ago it was brought to the notice of this House that various complaints have been received by the Railway Board from the local railway authorities regarding the work of this particular company. May I know what steps were taken by the Railway Board to meet with the situation?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** This company was given the contract for assembling 10,800 wagons. They

carried out a portion of the work. But, at one stage, there was some trouble among the labour and they were forced to declare a lock-out. Since then no progress has been made. We have considered the question of terminating their contract. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Law and, at this stage, we are not quite ready to take the final action as we have to consult other Ministry also.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** May I know the date on which the contract was given to this firm and also the date on which the final contract agreement was signed and whether there was some delay in this? May I also know whether there were, in fact, complaints about the firm even before the final signing of the contract? And why action was not taken at that time?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The contract was awarded in July, 1955. There was some time-lag between the signing of the contract and the date on which it was awarded.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Bose.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Is it not a fact that the contractor is not...

**Mr. Speaker:** I have called Mr. Bose and I will give the hon. Member another opportunity.

**Shri Bose:** What was the labour trouble about; did they present any list of grievances and was it legitimate or illegal?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** That aspect is being looked into by the South Eastern Railway.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Is it not a fact that these contractors were not even fulfilling the terms of the contract agreement prior to April, 1958 and why was not earlier action taken in order to prevent this delay in assembling all these wagons?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** They had fulfilled all the necessary conditions, except one. There was a clause about security deposit and this firm made a