

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

representation that this clause was too severe because they will have to give a bank guarantee which may, in some cases, extend to Rs. 2 crores. This was not the only firm that made such a representation. There was another firm in South India that also made a similar representation, that the bank guarantee asked for was too heavy. The matter was considered and it was thought that their representation was reasonable and, as a result of that, certain amendments were made to the original agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, I said Rs. 200 crores; it is not Rs. 200 crores but Rs. 2 crores.

Hepatitis Epidemic

*1491. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the virus of infectious Hepatitis (Jaundice) does not get destroyed even after the contaminated water is boiled;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hepatitis is apparent after 30 days of infection;

(c) how many dirty water nallas or sewages join Jamuna above the pumping station of Delhi water supply; and

(d) at what distances from the pumping station?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The incubation period is from 10 to 40 days, commonly 25 days.

(c) There are two intakes of water supply for Delhi, one at Wazirabad and the other at Okhla. There is now no overflow of sewage upstream of Wazirabad as the Najafgarh Nullah has been diverted 3,000 ft. downstream. There are however 9 points at which sewage overflows into Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 35].

Shri Jadhav: By boiling up to what degree centigrade does this infectious virus disappear?

Shri Karmarkar: Our technical advice is that it disappears when water boils. That is sufficient to destroy all this.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: May I know whether it is a fact that the Hajarnavis Committee report has given the opinion that the water supply to Lajpat Nagar and Jangpura area is unfit for human consumption?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice for that. But is it from the Okhla water supply?

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: It is not.

Shri Karmarkar: Then, it is quite all right. From Wazirabad the water is perfectly all right.

Hirakud Dam Project

*1492. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the annual revenue at present derived from the Hirakud Dam Project; and

(b) what will be the revenue from the Project when irrigation water and electricity are fully utilised?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No revenue has been derived from irrigation so far, as it has not been possible for the State Government to finalise the assessment of Water Rates and Betterment Levy. As regards the revenue from sale of electricity, out of the total installed capacity of 1,23,000 k.w., one unit of 37,500 k.w. is kept as a stand-by, and from the balance of 85,000 k.w. installed, 34,000 k.w. or 39.8 per cent. is being consumed at present. The revenue from this source during 1957 was Rs. 30.91 lakhs. The position, however, is steadily increasing as will be seen from the fact that the gross revenue