

ration of Delhi, no proposal for supply of unfiltered water is at present under the consideration of the Corporation.

#### Short Notice Questions

**Closing down of Ferry Services by Bombay Steam Navigation Company, Limited**

15. { Shri Assar:  
Shri Jadhav:  
Shri Nath Pai:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., Bombay have already stopped the ferry service of Bombay to Rewas and Bombay to Purnagad Line;

(b) if so, reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that stoppage of services has caused great inconvenience to the residents of Bombay and Konkan; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to continue the ferry services?

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

(b) According to the Company the two services have been running at a loss.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In regard to the Bombay-Purnagad service, it has been ascertained that all the ports except Purnagad will be visited thrice weekly as before though integrated with the Bombay-Dabhol Vengurla services. As far as visiting Purnagad port is concerned, the Steamer Company is prepared to issue through tickets via Ranpur paying themselves the bus fare from Ranpur to Purnagad.

As regards the harbour service to Rewas which comes within the purview of the State Government, the Steamer Company has explained that as soon as their launch is repaired, their Board will consider resumption

of this service. Meanwhile as the foul season is over, private launches have started operating to Rewas and inconvenience to passengers has been removed.

**Shri Assar:** If losses are there, have the Government tried to ascertain whether these losses are real or manipulated? In view of the assurance given by the Chief Minister of Bombay last year to a Jan Sangh delegation to enquire into the losses, have Government looked further into the matter?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The latter part of the question can only be answered by the Government of Bombay.

In regard to the first part, a regular enquiry was held into this matter by an ex-Judge of the Bombay High Court, Mr. Justice Lokur, who went into the whole question and it was on his report that we allowed an increase in the fares to the extent of 10 per cent.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Is it not a fact that the Bombay Steam Navigation Co., which is a subsidiary of the Scindias, is showing a loss whereas the parent company is showing a profit which runs into millions?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is largely a fact, Sir.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Have Government tried to find out whether this closure of some of the harbours which the Company's ships used to touch earlier is the first step to carrying out their threat? Is the closure of some of the harbours which were formerly touched by the ships of this line the first step to closing down the whole line and whether it is a method of coercion to get such concessions as they have been demanding from the Government?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Various interpretations can be put on this. It is difficult for us to probe into the mysteries of the hearts of these particular people who are running these particular services. But it is true that they have resumed their services to a good extent. Only one particular port has

been eliminated from the regular run of the steamer service. That is where the matter stands now.

**Shri Nath Pal:** Last year in this House Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri stated that before the end of September, 1957, the ships of this Company would start touching the harbour of Malvan. It is more than 17 months since a hundred thousand people are deprived of their only means of communication with Bombay. May I know what steps are now being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The question pertains to two services other than the one referred to by the hon. Member. We are deeply conscious of the inconvenience that is caused to passengers. The responsibility in this behalf has to be shared both by the Central Government and the State Government. Some of the services are entirely harbour services for which the State Government is responsible. Even so, we are trying our level best to do what we can in the circumstances.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know whether the service at present is carried only for six days in a week?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is according to the time schedule which they have fixed for themselves.

**Shri Jadhav:** Even though an increase of 15 per cent. in fares has been allowed, the boats are not working.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is 10 per cent.

**Shri Nath Pal:** Is it a fact that the Company is threatening to close down its line once a week? May I know whether there will be an assurance that it will be only one day?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** They say that on Tuesday, which is supposed to be a bad day for going to sea, they do not propose to run their services. That is the superstition. This is the information I have got.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister is saying that it is the sentiment that is observed.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** On that particular day, they propose to close their services. I do not know whether it is Tuesday or some other day.

#### Vacation of Residential Buildings in Jharia

**16. Shri Bose:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of people residing in the Station area of Jharia Town have been served with notice under Section 144 Cr. P.C. at the instance of the Mines Department to vacate their houses as the area is likely to subside;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter; and

(c) whether an enquiry by experts is proposed to be held to ascertain the actual condition as desired by the aggrieved people?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) and (b). Due to the existence of underground fire in No. 10 and 11 seams of the Khas Jharia Colliery, certain houses situated in the Jharia Town were got vacated by the district authorities in 1933. During a recent inspection of the area, it was found that 22 of the houses which were vacated had been re-occupied and 8 new houses constructed. As the area is considered to be dangerous because of the existence of underground fire in one of the coal seams, and of unstable workings in another, the occupants of these 30 houses have been served with notice to vacate the same.

(c) The Chief Inspector of Mines inspected the area on the 16th September 1958 and he also is of the opinion that the area is not safe for these people to live there.

**Shri Bose:** May I know whether the hon. Minister has seen the telegram sent by the sufferers that the