

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Government does not propose to set up any selection committee for selecting farmers to go on tour, but we have one rule that any special train that is provided for farmers must be sponsored by the State Government with a view to ensure that the people for whom it is intended are *bona fide* farmers.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : अभी माननीय उप-मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि दिल्ली से जो स्पेशल ट्रेन चली थी, उस का सारे का सारा खर्चा सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय ने दिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर किसी प्रोग्राम की इस तरह की सूचना आई है कि और दूसरी जगहों के किसान भी अगर किन्हीं विकास योजनाओं को देखने जाना चाहें तो उन का सारे का सारा खर्चा सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय देगा।

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : यह सवाल तो सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय से किया जाये तो ज्यादा बेहतर होगा। लेकिन जहाँ तक मेरा इत्म है.....

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : आप के पास कोई सूचना इस तरह की आई है ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : हमारे पास कोई सूचना नहीं है।

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: Does the Government intend to extend this facility to other classes of people also who are as poor as farmers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This facility is already there for students, teachers, etc.

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: I mean, besides students and teachers.

(No answer was given)

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether similar concession will be given to industrial workers for undertaking this educative tour?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It may be extended to industrial as well as agricultural workers.

Shri Rajendra Singh: If certain farmers want to visit the Congress Con-

ference, may I know whether they will be extended the same facilities?

An Hon. Member: It is being done.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir; they will not be given.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether the word 'farmer' includes agricultural labour also?

Mr. Speaker: He said so. He said that it includes industrial and agricultural labour also.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know from what States farmers participated in this tour, and how many farmers there were from Bombay State?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I have got a detailed list here.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will learn it from him. There are 14 States in India.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that the special trains were run for farmers and not for labourers. May I know whether no labourers have sought the assistance of the Government for their taking a tour, or, was their request denied?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The parties organise themselves and they apply to the railway for this concession. No such party of labourers came forward.

Late-running of Local Trains in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway

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Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Shri Ghosal:

Shri Halder:

*635. Shri Bimal Ghose:

Shri Mohan Swarup:

Shri Narayanankutty Menon:

• Shri Warrior:

Shri B. Das Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times in May and June, 1958 when local trains in the

Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway ran late;

(b) what were the reasons for such irregularity;

(c) whether it was mainly due to the high saline content in the water from Hoogly used for feeding locomotive boilers;

(d) if so, the number of goods and passenger engines which developed defects on the above account;

(e) the total estimated amount of loss involved; and

(f) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 64.]

Shri Halder: Sir, on a point of order. I want to know whether the Railway Minister can be allowed to place a false or incorrect statement in the House. I am referring to Question No. 635, and the answer to part (b) of the question (ii) and (iii) of the answer parts "Public interference to train operation" and "excessive alarm chain pulling and custom checks".

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will put a question if he is not satisfied with the answer and ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact, etc.

Shri Halder: My question is, whether the hon. Minister can place an incorrect statement in the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister feels that it is correct. I will allow the hon. Member an opportunity to put a question. Indirectly, the hon. Member ought not to get up and say that the answer is incorrect and that the hon. Minister should correct it. He may put a supplementary question if he catches my eye, and not before that, indirectly.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The Minister has replied in his statement, in answer to parts (b) and (c) of the question, that the delays were mainly due to an increase in the percentage of salinity in water. May I know to what extent the engine trouble, arising out of high percentage of salinity in water is also due to a large percentage of over-aged engines being commissioned in the Sealdah Division?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The recent trouble in Sealdah Division was due almost entirely to the high percentage of salinity in the water. There were a few engine failures due to mechanical trouble, but most of the engines failed because of the trouble which was due to salinity.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: To what extent....

Mr. Speaker: There is no extent. The hon. Minister says that it is purely due to salinity in water and not due to old machines being brought in. He says so. I understand it. I do not know why the hon. Member does not understand it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the report that in the other divisions of the Eastern Railway which use the same kind of water and are suffering from the same kind of salinity, the same variety of late running did not take place, may I take it that there was something wrong and that actually the use of over-aged engines alone was responsible for this defect?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As far as I am aware, the only other railway that uses the Hooghly water is the Port Trust Railway. They have plenty of trouble. The other divisions do not use the Hooghly water.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that this is one of the areas where there is heaviest train traffic and also in view of the fact that the salinity of water will continue year after year until the Ganga Bar-

rage work is completed, may I know whether the electrification of Sealdah Division is going to be taken in hand immediately?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The Sealdah Division is very important from traffic point of view, and the traffic during recent years has tremendously increased. We have taken steps to overcome this difficulty of high percentage of salinity in water, and with that end in view, we are sinking tube-wells for that purpose. I may assure the hon. Member that electrification of Sealdah Division will also be taken up.

Casualty in Irwin Hospital, New Delhi

*636. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prosecution launched against Dr. Gaitonde of the Irwin Hospital for alleged indifference in the conduct of operation of a girl has been withdrawn; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the withdrawal?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From the evidence available, it was extremely doubtful if the prosecution was sustainable.

Shri Tangamani: This prosecution against Dr. Gaitonde was started under section 336 I.P.C. for endangering human life and for the act of negligence, because, after the death of the girl after the abdominal operation took place, forceps was found, after the cremation took place, in the abdomen.

Mr. Speaker: He gives information. What is it that he wants to ask? The whole case is, the forceps was not removed after the operation from the body of the patient, and that, therefore, forceps was discovered after cremation.

Shri Karmarkar: The Home Ministry, after considering all the evidence that was available, came to the conclusion that it was doubtful whether

the case was sustainable, and in their discretion, they asked the Delhi Administration to withdraw the case.

Shri Tangamani: The prosecution?

Shri Karmarkar: Am I expected to discuss the evidence and place the evidence before the House, Sir?

Shri Tangamani: It is a case of withdrawal. May I know whether, when the case was pending before the court of the magistrate, Shri K. P. Gupta, any evidence was adduced before the magistrate?

Shri Karmarkar: My information is that the case was under section 304-A, I.P.C. in the Faiz Bazar police station. It was under their investigation, and like in every other case, it went to the magistrate also—I have not got that particular piece in my notes—and at this stage, the Home Ministry went into the matter, looked into the whole matter, and from the evidence, they came to the conclusion, after giving all consideration, that the evidence did not justify a prosecution. That is the case.

Shri Tangamani: My point was this. The case was pending before the magistrate when the prosecution was proceeding with the case. What I would like to know is whether witnesses were examined before the withdrawal order of the District Magistrate was filed before the magistrate's court?

Shri Karmarkar: During the course of the investigation of the case, they recorded the statements of different persons. No witnesses were examined in the court. That is exactly so.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether there was any reference to the Government from the prosecutor, whoever it may be, that the evidence was not sufficient to justify further proceedings?

Shri Karmarkar: It would not be in the public interest to tell the House as to what transpired between the prosecutor and the police and the Home Ministry. (*Interruptions*). Otherwise,