

far as controlling by foreigners is concerned I have already stated in answer to the previous question that there is only one company of which the managing director is a foreigner

Run-away Engine

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*1769 { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Station Master of Powai near Margherita (Assam) jumped into a engine without driver on 22nd March, 1959 to avert a major accident, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy). (a) and (b) At about 07 35 hours on 22nd March, 1959, Engine No 1829 WD while being watered at the water column of Ledo Station, suddenly started moving towards Dibrugarh. The Engine Cleaner who happened to be on the Engine Tender on noticing the Engine moving without crew jumped off and sustained some injuries. The Engine went forward and passed through Bargola and Margherita stations and while it was entering Powai station the Station Master, Powai jumped into it and brought it to a stand at the station.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What award is the Government thinking of giving for the heroic deed of this Assistant Station Master?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is intended to give about Rs 250

Shri Raghunath Singh. It is very small

Shri Palaniyandy: Is there any ghost to drive the engine?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am not aware of any

Mr Deputy-Speaker. Does he propose to have some enquiry committee instituted into that?

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know what distance the un-manned engine travelled and how many stations it passed?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I said, it passed two stations

Shri P. C. Borooah: Distance?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The timetable may be checked up; I am sorry

Abolition of Second Class on Railways

*1770. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any firm date has been fixed for the abolition of the Second Class for passenger traffic,

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) when a decision is likely to be arrived at in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan). (a) No firm date has been fixed

(b) and (c) Second Class is being abolished gradually and by stages. The phasing of its abolition is linked up with the provision of sleeping accommodation for third class passengers. Three types of third class sleeping coaches are being tried out and when a decision is taken as to which of them is to be adopted as the standard and the required number of such carriages are built, further abolition of second class will be effected

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: One of the reasons stated is that until sleeping accommodation is provided in third class, this question cannot be taken up. May I know whether a passenger can claim sleeping accommodation in second class at present?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: He cannot claim sleeping accommodation, but very often he does get sleeping accommodation