

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Wherever there are surplus lands which can be utilised for agricultural purposes, they are given to the State Governments to settle temporarily with local people for food production work

Goods Train Derailment

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*56. { Shri Assar:
Shri Mohammed Imam:
Shri Agadi:
Shri Siddananjappa:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact there was a derailment of goods train on Southern Railway on the 22nd December, 1958 between Belgaum and Miraj

(b) if so, what were the causes,

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers were harassed and were compelled to stay at Hubli station, and

(d) if so the details of the incident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir The derailment took place on 23rd December, 1958 and not on 22nd December, 1958

(b) The enquiry into the cause of the accident is not finalised

(c) and (d) No case of harassment has come to the notice of the Government 55 through passengers who reached Hubli despite pre-warning about the termination of the train at Hubli were given all possible assistance

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that these harassed persons and passengers staged demonstrations and offered satyagraha at Hubli, and what was the reason?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I have stated there has been no harassment On the other hand, all possible assistance was given to them.

Mr Speaker: He wants to know if everything has been provided, what is the need for satyagraha?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): We are not aware of any satyagraha

Mr. Speaker: The hon Minister is not aware of any satyagraha at all

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may explain here that the passengers reached there at half past nine in the night and they were provided another train at 4 o'clock in the morning The trouble or any inconvenience that was caused to the passengers was within this period We made known that the line was blocked It might have taken some time

Shri Mohammed Imam: On the same track between Belgaum and Bangalore, is it not a fact that more than half a dozen derailments of goods trains have taken place from May 1958 and if so what are the special reasons for such frequent derailment? What steps have been taken by the Railway authorities to avoid them?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: A separate question may be put with regard to that

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I might add, as the Deputy Minister has stated, the report of the enquiry has not yet been finalised But the preliminary report that has been received indicates that there was no fault on the track itself and that the cause was more or less failure of human element I will go into the question if there were other derailments and what steps are necessary

Mr. Speaker: Shri Agadi is he not here? Shri Siddananjappa. Sometimes I am not able to locate the names Yesterday, an hon Member sent a chit to me that by inadvertance I did not call him because I did not find him here though he rose Therefore, I call the names that appear here whether they are present or not It is for them to put the question.

Let no other Member put the question when I call some other Member's name That is all I can do

Shri Tangamani: Following the reply given by the hon Minister, may I know from the hon Minister whether it is not a fact that during the recent past, particularly during the last three months, derailments in the Southern Railway are on the increase and if so what is the special reason?

Mr. Speaker. It is a larger question

Shri Jagjivan Ram. I am not prepared to answer this general question

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that the derailment of train was not informed to Miraj station in time?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As a matter of fact it was informed. A special train was run and even the passengers with ordinary tickets were allowed to go by the express tram. All facilities were given.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri Keshava**

Shri Keshava No 57

Mr. Speaker: No 57 has been transferred to the 20th of February

Electricity Rates in Delhi

*58 { **Shri Radha Raman**
Shri Rajendra Singh

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revise the electric charges in Delhi from consumers,

(b) if so the nature of this revision and

(c) what considerations have led Government to undertake such a revision?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c) A proposal for the revision of the rates for supply of electricity for

lighting and fans, and small industrial and medium power consumers, is under consideration of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and not the Government.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government has any data available here with regard to the cost of production of electricity in Delhi and the profit that the undertaking has therefrom?

Shri Hathi: I do not think the Government of India has got this information at present

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government has any data available with regard to the rates that are prevalent in other big cities of the country and the rates that prevail here in Delhi and how they compare?

Shri Hathi: The Government has the various rates prevailing in the different States in different parts. But, at present, I have not got them here to give a comparative picture.

Shri Rajendra Singh: May I know if the Government on its own have examined the possibility of reducing electricity charges so that the small industries could make some headway in the capital city of India?

Mr. Speaker: He is asking about small industries.

Shri Hathi: This question relates to the proposed revision of rates in Delhi by the Municipal Corporation. That is being done by the Municipal Corporation not by the Government.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government has under consideration any proposal regarding the transfer of production or generation of electricity in Delhi? There is a claim from the Delhi Municipal Corporation that the rates will have gone down if that transfer is made.

Shri Hathi: I do not think there is any such proposal. Under the Municipal Corporation Act of 1957 that we