

subsequent improvements in output of existing coach building units the position has been reviewed and it has been decided to hold the project in abeyance for the time being.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the Railway Minister had received a memorandum from the Government of Kerala pointing out that additional facilities and better conditions prevail for the starting of a factory in Kerala?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, the facilities might have been there. But it is not necessary to have an additional coach building factory.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Are we to understand that the proposal for starting a new factory has been abandoned?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is what I said. It has been held in abeyance for the time being.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Minister has stated that there has been some improvement in the construction of metre-gauge coaches. May I know whether the improvement has been in the private sector or public sector?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is in both.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: How many coaches were purchased from the firms and how many coaches were manufactured in the railway workshops?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I shall require notice for precise information. But I would like to say for the information of the hon. Member that the output of coaches from HAL is 18 per month, ICF 38 carriages per month, Jessops 20 to 24 per month and railway workshops 60 to 70 per month. That is enough to meet our present requirements.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The hon. Minister has stated that the position of metre-gauge coaches has improved. May I know whether the Minister is aware that in all the metre gauge coaches which are running between Ernakulam and Trivan-

drum are leaking and the passengers have to use umbrellas whenever they travel in those areas?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: They will be repaired when they go to the workshops for repairs.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister has stated that we are manufacturing at HAL and the Integral Coach Factory. But these are broad-gauge coaches that are manufactured there. And we are purchasing from the private sector firms our full requirements of metre-gauge coaches. Then how does he say that the public sector is manufacturing metre-gauge coaches?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The railway workshops are also manufacturing. The hon. Member is aware that we are stepping up our production of coaches at the ICF from 350 to 750 a year.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: That is broad gauge coaches.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: They can manufacture metre-gauge coaches also.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would suggest that we might take up Q No 507 also along with Q No 502.

Mr Speaker: All right.

Theft of Telegraph Wire in West Bengal

*502 **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether theft of telegraph wire is widespread in West Bengal particularly in the Howrah-Burdwan, Burdwan-Durgapur and Howrah-Kharagpur Sections;

(b) whether the State Government have been asked to create a special police establishment attached to the P&T. department for the purpose of checking such thefts; and

(c) if so, with what result?