

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the Railway Board considers the lowest rate of tender, that is, Rs. 345 and Rs. 370 for BG and MG sleeper respectively as unworkable and uneconomic? Is it also not a fact that the Director General of Supplies and Disposals is purchasing in thousands of tons bearing plates which are admittedly costlier per ton than sleepers at Rs. 345?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Certain firms quoted a price that was the lowest. But, it was not accepted for other reasons.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know the names of the firms which have given their quotation and whether they are firms which manufacture keys or whether the keys are manufactured by Singh Engineering Co., Kanpur which has done previously very bad work.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The two firms are—may I give the names?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Messrs Baidyanath Iron and Steel Co., and Shri Hanuman Foundries Ltd. The contract was not given to the first firm because they were new in the line and we wanted to know whether they could fulfil the work. As far as the second firm is concerned, there were certain enquiries pending and therefore, they could not be given.

Shri C. D. Pande: How does the price of timber sleepers compare with iron sleepers and may I know whether in view of the large supply of iron now, tender foreign sleepers will be cancelled?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The hon. Minister has already stated that there will be no import further of foreign sleepers.

Shri C. D. Pande: How does the price compare?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: A separate question may kindly be put.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether these firms who are supplying sleepers are also manufacturing the keys? If the keys are manufactured by others, I want to know which are the firms which will manufacture the keys for joining the sleepers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This question relates only to tender for sleepers. I do not know about keys. A separate question may be put.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You may remember, Sir, the other question is here today, that sleepers were rejected, because the keys did not fit in, and the entire thing was thrown out. I want to know who will manufacture the keys. These are inter-linked.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I want notice.

Mr. Speaker: He is not in a position to answer immediately. The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sleeping Accommodation in Air-Conditioned Third Class

*808. **Shri Mohammed Imam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide sleeping accommodation to passengers travelling by Air-conditioned third class; and

(b) if so, when it will be given effect to?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Level Crossing at Safdarjang Airport, New Delhi

*809. { **Shri Ram Garib:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Health be

pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of work regarding the construction of a second or a double level crossing near the Safdarjang Airport;

(b) whether cycle tracks on either side of the road in front of the Airport right from the level crossing are also proposed to be constructed; and

(c) if so, by which date the work will be completed?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The double level crossing at Mehrauli Road, near Safdarjang Airport, has to be provided by the Ministry of Railways on behalf of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Delhi Municipal Corporation. The work has not been started so far.

(b) There is no such proposal at present under the consideration of the New Delhi Municipal Committee or the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

Train Accident at Manmad

*812. { Shri Jadhav:
Shri B. C. Mullick:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a serious accident caused by the engine that was being shunted at the Manmad Station on the 23rd September, 1959;

(b) the extent of loss to Railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that some passengers were also injured;

(d) whether any inquiry has been held into the accident; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found responsible?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) A shunting engine with a load of 9 wagons dashed against the dead and mounted on the platform as a result of which all the vehicles derailed.

(b) Rs. 62,000 approximately.

(c) Two passengers sustained minor injuries.

(d) Yes.

(e) Punishment against the staff held responsible is being finalised by the railway administration.

Dam on River Tista

*813. { Shri Mansoon:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Water and Power Commission undertook and completed the investigation of the River Tista for the purpose of constructing a dam;

(b) if so, whether any sight for the construction of the dam has been selected; and

(c) what is the estimated power and irrigation potential of the proposed dam?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir. Investigations for a dam on the river Tista are being undertaken by the Central Water and Power Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This will be known only after the investigations have been completed.

Transport of Iron Ore

*814. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements have been made to transport 2 million tons of iron ore from Calcutta port to fulfil the Japanese contracts; and

(b) if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and