

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** I am giving some information to the Minister.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That might be reserved for some other opportunity. He might ask now what he does not know.

**Shri Subiman Ghose:** I am taking the information from him. Is the Minister aware that it is written in every compartment in the train that during hurricanes or cyclones the doors and windows of the compartments should be kept open? Is the Minister aware of that fact?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As I said, it is a privately-owned railway. Personally I am not aware of that, but what I am aware of is that when the storm came, it was about 3:30 in the afternoon. The train was halted, and then the storm overtook it. It toppled over all the coaches.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** May I know whether the hon. Minister will enlighten us whether such blowing of railway train in a storm had ever happened in the past?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I cannot say off-hand, but I know sometimes it does happen. An odd railway empty wagon is toppled over, but I cannot give him definite information. I shall require notice.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If it has happened once, it might happen again.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know whether the Government has in mind nationalisation of these light railways.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a different thing altogether. It has been toppled over, therefore we should nationalise? If it is nationalised, the storm would not topple it over?

**Shri Sonavane:** May I know whether action will be taken to prevent similar incidents on other light railways.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let us hope it will not happen here also.

### Ship Repairing Yard at Cochin Port

**\*1092. Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a Ship Repairing Yard in the Cochin Port; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the same?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration for starting a Ship Repairing Yard in Cochin. However, as the Hon'ble Member is aware, the Govt. have decided to establish a Shipbuilding Yard in Cochin, subject to the results of the further investigations into the soil conditions being satisfactory. Steps are accordingly being taken to conduct the necessary investigations at the proposed site. Action has also been taken under the Cochin Land Acquisition Act to notify the intention of Government to acquire about 73 acres of private land for the proposed Shipbuilding Yard.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether Government is aware that because of the absence of ship repairing facilities in Cochin, a large number of ships is diverted to Colombo and Cochin Port is losing trade because of that?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We do require ship repairing facilities along the coast, and the Shipyard Committee of the U.K. technical mission which went into this question had advised and as the hon. Member knows we have accepted the recommendations of that Committee, for the establishment of a shipyard at Cochine which would include dry dock facilities and enable the ships to get the necessary ship repair facilities.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the British technical mission which recommended the location of the shipbuilding yard, conducted a survey of the suitability of the soil and made a

recommendation that in this particular place the soil was suitable?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I do not think that goes that far. As a matter of fact, the soil conditions have got to be investigated.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know who is entrusted with conducting the soil tests—the Cochin port authorities?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly say. Mostly they will be Cochin port authorities, engineers etc.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether it is not a fact that the British technical mission made a specific recommendation about the suitability of the sub-soil in this particular area, and that is why this site has been selected?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** No, Sir. The soil condition has to be investigated to some extent. That is part of the opinion expressed by them.

**Shri Panigrahi:** Are we to understand that the decision of the Government to locate the second ship yard in Cochin is not final, but subject to certain conditions?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** As I said, and announcement was made the other day on the floor of the House. It has been decided to locate the shipyard at Cochin subject to the results of the investigation into the soil conditions.

#### Independent Operators

\*1093. **Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit Indian independent operators to operate on foreign routes not operated by Indian Airlines Corporation and Air-India International without being required to obtain 'no objection' certificates from the Corporations;

(b) whether Government propose to permit Indian independent operators to advertise for their trade on these routes; and

(c) whether Government also propose to grant them routes and licences on a three to five year basis to enable them to organise their industry?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) and (b). The Government's basic policy towards the independent operators remains unchanged. However, specific proposals on the points referred to in parts (a) and (b) of the question will be considered on merits, when received.

(c) No, Sir. The current non-Scheduled permits are valid for a period of two years with effect from 1-1-1959.

**Shri Basumatari:** May I know whether any private operator has applied for the purpose, and if so, the name of the company and the foreign countries applied for?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** I think there is one application pending with us. I do not exactly remember the name of the company which has applied for it, but the application will be considered on merits.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether an international line operating through private operators has so far been opened up; if so, what are the countries and what is the name of the party?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** One private operator has been given permission to operate on the Bahrein side and on the Accra side, and this has been done with a no objection certificate from IAC and AII.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know the name of this party and whether Government is satisfied with the operational work of this party inside the country?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** The Kalingas are operating in that direction, and as far as Government are concerned, we have not received any complaints about their operations in those areas.