

Evasion of Freight Payment at Kanpur Station

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 *1464. { Shri Subiman Ghose:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many assisted siding lines are there in Kanpur; Northern Railway;

(b) whether any enquiry was held into causes of evasion of freight in these sidings and the pecuniary loss caused to the Railway during 1957-58;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(d) if no enquiry was held, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) 34.

(b) No special enquiry has been held. There has been some delay in the recovery of freight and other charges due from the siding owners. A substantial portion has been recovered. Further recoveries are also being made and it is not yet clear whether there will be any loss or not.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

(d) No Sir, since steps have been and are being taken to recover the outstandings and also a substantial part has already been recovered.

Shri Subiman Ghose: Is it a fact that on the initiative of some high railway officials of Kanpur and Allahabad, inspectors of railways were asked to enquire into the working of these assisted sidings at Kanpur and they submitted their report on 30th April, 1958 to the Divisional Superintendent of Allahabad and if so, will Government lay that report on the Table of the House?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is entirely a departmental report. We do not propose to lay it on the Table of the House.

Shri Subiman Ghose: May I know whether that enquiry was held and a report was submitted to the Divisional Superintendent on the 30th April, 1958?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is a normal thing in departmental working. Sometimes we depute inspectors to go and inspect certain cases and submit a report. It is a normal thing happening every day. It might have happened.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total amount of freight and siding charges against various mills of Kanpur on 31st March, 1958 and the amount realised and also the cost of commercial staff engaged in the various assisted siding lines outstanding on 31st March, 1958?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The amount outstanding on 31st March, 1958 was Rs. 7,78,086.20 nP. The amount realised by 31st December, 1959 was Rs. 6,19,408.18 nP. The cost of commercial staff engaged in various assisted siding lines in Kanpur outstanding on 31st March, 1958 was Rs. 99,104.50 nP.

Shri Subiman Ghose: Is it a fact that 500 wagons pertaining to a period prior to July 1957 remained unaccounted for, for which bills were never submitted and freight charges were never recovered? If so, what steps have Government taken for realising those freight charges?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is a matter of detail; I do not have the details.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The question relates to evasion of freight payment. It must be there.

Mr. Speaker: It may be there, but the hon. Minister is not in possession of that now. 500 wagons is a big thing, but we do not know whether the amount due is big or not. They may table another question for that. The hon. Minister has said Rs. 7 lakhs was outstanding out of which Rs. 6 lakhs have been recovered. Whether these 500 wagons are includ-

ed in it or not is a minor detail. They may put a separate question.

Shri Subiman Ghose: In the report, it is revealed that 500 wagons remain unaccounted for, bills were never submitted and freight charges never recovered.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister said that these reports are submitted in the usual course. If pointed attention is drawn to any single report, he will consider that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister said that on 31st March, 1958 the amount outstanding was Rs. 7 lakhs out of which Rs. 6 lakhs have been realised. I want to know what is the amount outstanding for 1959, whether it is regular payment or even on 31st March, 1959 something was outstanding. I want that figure also.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I have given the figures.

Mr. Speaker: Evidently he has got some suspicion that the amount of Rs. 6 lakhs is the amount due in that year and not by way of arrears. He wants to know what exactly are the outstandings at the end of the year 1959.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I have said that at the end of December, 1959, the outstanding would be to the extent of Rs. 1,58,000 for both the Northern and the North-eastern railway.

Introduction of Metric System in P. & T.

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*1485. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Taagamani:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the 'Metric System' is contemplated to be introduced in the Posts and Telegraphs Department; and

(b) what steps have been taken to educate the public and to popularise the scheme and to train the staff?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 98].

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement, it is found that the metric system has been introduced with effect from 1-4-1959 for certain types of work in the Telegraph Engineering Branch and with effect from 1-4-1960 for payment of charges for conveyance of mails by rail and by air and for calculating the basis of certain charges relating to telephone traffic. Since the system has been introduced in those sections. I want to know whether any difficulty has been experienced and, if so, what is the nature of difficulty and what steps are taken to rectify them.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I could not follow the question, because the hon. Member is always in the habit of talking in long sentences and not putting the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: With effect from 1-4-1960 the metric system has been introduced for payment of charges for conveyance of mails by rail and by air. I want to know whether the introduction of the system has created any difficulty and, if so, what steps have been taken to remove that.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I do not know what the hon. Member exactly wants. His question was such a long sentence that I could not follow it.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the introduction of the metric system has led to any difficulty in calculating the rates etc.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The difficulty in the change-over from the old system to the metric system is that the employees have got to be instructed in this matter. We are doing it gradually so that they will begin to understand the working of the new system. The tables of new as well as old rates are issued to them so that they would learn the change from one system to the other.