

probably more. Why were they not able to pull the chain?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There were ten persons. These two youngmen whipped out pistols and I think those ten passengers became nervous. Actually one old man out of the ten got up and grappled with the robbers. But he was slapped and then he became non-violent.

Shri Achar: My question was whether the chain was out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Possibly the passengers had no presence of mind. Next question.

Shri Achar: Was the chain out of order?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, it was not out of order.

श्री जगदीश अशस्त्री: गत वर्ष में उत्तर रेलवे में चोरियों आदि की संख्या बहुत बढ़ी है। क्या सरकार ने इस प्रकार की चोरियों की रोकथाम करने के लिए कोई ठोस कार्रवाई की है या कार्रवाई करने की बात सोची है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस विषय में कोई ठोस कदम उठाया गया है?

श्री शाहनवाज खान: बहुत ठोस कार्रवाई करने की कोशिश की है। तमाम इन्स्पेक्टर जनरल आफ पुलिस की यहाँ पर कॉन्फेंस बुलाई गई थी और हाल ही में चीफ मिनिस्टर साहिबान यहाँ पर जब तशरीफ लाये थे तो वे भी रेलवे मिनिस्टर साहब से मिले थे और उन से भी दरखास्त की गई थी कि यह ला एंड आर्डर का मामला है और स्टेट का मामला है, इसलिए वे हम को अपना अपना पूरा तत्त्वावुन दें।

Cast Iron Sleepers

- *1143. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Railways be asked to refer to the reply given to

Starred Question No. 811 on the 11th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the offers received in response to tenders invited for Cast Iron Sleepers; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

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

(b) Orders for the manufacture and supply of about 1.77 lakh 'ons have since been placed.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether these orders have been placed with the firm which tendered lowest?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Orders have been placed with one of the firms that tendered the lowest quotations. Actually there were two firms that gave the lowest quotations. There were 65 firms that actually tendered. We took the lowest tender and made an offer to all the firms to supply at the lowest tender rate.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: What was the number of firms which accepted the offer to supply at the lowest tender rate?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: 47.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether the Iron and Steel Works at Bhadravati supplied cast iron sleepers? If so, is the quality of the sleepers supplied by them better than those of others? If so, what steps are taken to increase the orders to the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works as it is in the public sector?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, 65 firms tendered and 47 out of them agreed to supply at the lowest tendered rate. We are placing orders keeping in view their performance in the previous years. The orders are placed in accordance with their capacity which is checked up beforehand.

Mr. Speaker: He only wants to know if any steps are being taken to encourage the Bhadravati Iron and

Steel works which is in the public sector.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We placed orders in the previous years; if their work was satisfactory, next year we increase the orders.

Shri Tyagi: At what rate was the order placed last year and at what rate is it placed this year? Is it a fact that the firm which quoted the lowest has not been given any order this year?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is not quite so. The lowest tender was from Messrs. Baijnath Iron and Steel Company Limited and Shri Hanuman Foundries. The rates quoted by them were Rs. 345 per ton for broad gauge and Rs. 370 per ton for metre gauge. For the previous year, I do not have the figures readily available with me. But I think the rates are lower this year than the last year.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In reply to the previous question, the hon. Minister stated that Messrs. Baijnath Iron and Steel Company Limited and Shri Hanuman Foundries were the two firms which quoted the lowest. The contract was not given to Messrs. Baijnath Iron and Steel Company because they were new in the line and Government wanted to know whether they could fulfil the work. As far as the second firm was concerned, there were certain inquiries pending, and therefore, they could not be given the contract. I want to know whether the inquiry in respect of Shri Hanuman Foundries has since been completed and whether this firm has also been given orders or only Baijnath Iron and Steel Company, who are new in the line, have been given orders.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The Sri Hanuman Foundries have been supplying sleepers to us, and their work in the past has been quite good. There are certain disputes going on with them regarding some previous payments etc. and some cases are in the High Court. We are trying to come to some sort of agreement so that we can allow them to continue the supply.

Irwin Hospital, Delhi

*1145. { ⁺Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Cobalt Plant to treat cancer patients in the Irwin Hospital, Delhi;

(b) the cost of the plant; and

(c) when it is likely to start functioning?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A proposal to set up a Cobalt Plant to treat cancer patients in the Irwin Hospital, Delhi was received.

(b) Rs. 2,50,000 approximately.

(c) The requirements of the Irwin Hospital will be kept in view while forwarding the request for Cobalt Units to the Colombo Plan authorities for the Capital Aid Programme for 1960-61. It would be possible to put the plant under commission within six months of its arrival at the Irwin Hospital.

12 hrs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know by what time the plant will arrive and by what time it will start functioning?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, the decision has yet to be taken whether the Cobalt plant could be supplied during the year 1960-61. After that decision comes the question which the hon. Member asks.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether there are some similar plants in the other hospitals of Delhi for the treatment of cancer cases?

Shri Karmarkar: Not yet; but we are trying to requisition a plant for the Sardarjang Hospital.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what efforts the Ministry has made during the years of the Second Five-