

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. But at the earliest possible moment, we should like to have such a machine installed.

Shri Kalika Singh: What will be the cost of the installation if it is proposed to have it in any of our hospitals?

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got that information; I should like to have notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that a heart specialist of East Germany, Dr. Limbke, has been invited to visit India and give his advice?

Shri Karmarkar: This is about the machine.

Mr. Speaker: He is asking about an expert and not about the machine.

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Breaches on Ludhiana-Jullundur Line

*937. **Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail traffic was suspended between Ludhiana and Jullundur on the 14th July, 1960 due to the breaches on the rail track;

(b) how long this repair work on the rail track had been going on; and

(c) what steps Government took for the speedy repair of the track?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Due to heavy rainfall, there was settlement of a temporary diversion near Chiheru station resulting in suspension of rail traffic between Ludhiana and Jullundur from 7.30 to 13.20 hours on the 14th of July, 1960. Repair work was completed during this period.

(c) Immediate action was taken to mobilise labour and material from all sources and the repair work was completed in the shortest possible time.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Delivery of Registered Letter

S. Q. No. 7. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a registered letter of some M.L.A. of Punjab containing complaint against Chief Minister Punjab addressed to Chairman Anti-Corruption Committee, Punjab has been delivered to Chief Minister, Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaint in this regard; and

(c) if so, the nature of action taken in this regard?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A complaint dated 16-8-60 about the matter was received on 17-8-60 in the office of the Postmaster General, Punjab Circle, Ambala.

(c) Suitable action is being taken against the delinquents responsible for its wrong delivery.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the letter which contained original documentary evidence against the Chief Minister of Punjab is still in the custody of the Chief Minister of Punjab and had not been returned to the addressee so far?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I do not know the details of it. Only the delinquent is being dealt with.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the wrongly delivered letter or packet has been recovered from the Chief Minister and handed over to the person to whom it was addressed?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: It was wrongly delivered no doubt and the delinquent who delivered it is being dealt with.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says, original documents were contained in that letter and they have been wrongly delivered. The hon. Minister admits they have been wrongly delivered to a person to whom it was not addressed. Have any attempts been made, apart from the punishing of the delinquents, to recover that packet and deliver it to the proper person? That is the question.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Yes, Sir; we are making attempts to do that.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: The refusal to return a wrongly delivered registered letter is an offence under sections 68 and 69 of the Indian Post Office Act. In view of this fact, may I know whether any legal action will be taken against the offenders, including the Chief Minister of Punjab?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We do not propose to do anything of the kind.

Shri Tyagi: Let it be the Chief Minister or any other dignitary; it requires an explanation as to how it was possible that the letter addressed to someone else was delivered to the Chief Minister. Who used the influence? Was it the Chief Minister or the postal authorities who delivered this letter?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I think it was the mistake of the postman who delivered that letter. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Tyagi: How can it be a mistake? A letter containing a complaint against me is delivered to me by mistake by the postman. It is something very strange.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: That sometimes happens.

Shri Tyagi: Is it the normal course of the delivery of letters?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: That is not the normal course. Sometimes accidents do happen in this world. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Speaker, we would like the hon. Minister to take a more serious view of this.

Shri Tyagi: It is very serious.

Shri Nath Pai: I had a bitter experience. My letters written from the prison to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister were not delivered to either of them. These things are happening; the State Governments interfere with the correspondence. If this thing can happen to an M.P., what must be the fate of ordinary citizens?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Shri Nath Pai's letters written to the Home Minister or the Prime Minister not being delivered to them is a separate matter. It has nothing to do with the matter under consideration.

Shri Nathi Pai: It is a direct interference.

Mr. Speaker: He has made a suggestion that serious steps should be taken in this regard.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Chief Minister of Punjab or anybody else actually signed the receipt and took away the document or is it that the Chief Minister or any of his agents have returned the whole thing with a declaration to the effect that it is intact completely? Has he made any investigation in this matter?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We are enquiring into this matter. I have not got the full details of this yet.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: This is a very simple matter. If a letter registered and addressed to X is accepted by Y, and then it is tampered with, this is a matter which can be discovered very soon, without the kind of high falutin investigation which is being conducted.

Mr. Speaker: What he wants to know is, usually registered letters are accompanied by acknowledgment. Is it or is it not a fact that the Chief Minister or some agent of his signed the acknowledgment before the letter was delivered?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have not as yet got the information as to who signed the acknowledgment. All that we know this letter was wrongly delivered. We have found out that it is so. We are now trying to find out who received the letter.

Shri Tyagi: What is the explanation of the local postmaster, I want to know. A short notice question has been put. Enquiries have been made from the local postman. He has also received some information. I want to know what is the report of the postmaster about this affair. Was it wrongly delivered by mistake or deliberately designed to be delivered to the Chief Minister?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: 'Deliberately designed' is a phrase that I would not accept. I do not think it was deliberately designed. All that we are trying to find out is how this letter came to be wrongly delivered. I have not yet got all the information. As the hon. Member wanted to ask a short notice question, I have given all the information in my possession.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Punjab is the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee of Punjab and if so, how it is a wrong delivery? Secondly, the hon. Member is talking of some other committee, i.e. the Vigilance Committee.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am not concerned with the Chief Minister being the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee. This has nothing to do with it. All that I am concerned with is that a letter addressed to somebody else was wrongly delivered. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I want to know to whom it was addressed, to whom it was delivered, and who signed the receipt?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Why are hon. Members excited? All hon. Members cannot simultaneously put questions. I allowed Shri Sinhasan Singh to put a question. He wants to know who the original addressee was.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Obviously this is a matter with regard to which the House is entitled to have full facts. At the present moment, in view of what the hon. Minister has said, he is enquiring into it; let him place all the facts as soon as this enquiry is over.

Shri Vajpayee: It is being said that it was wrongly delivered without a proper enquiry. Our complaint is that it was deliberately delivered. Unless there is a proper enquiry how can the Minister say that it was not deliberate?

Mr. Speaker: Very well, let us await the result of the enquiry. I am sure the hon. Minister will place all the relevant material before the House after the enquiry is made.

Shri Tyagi: It is already more than a week since he has received notice of the Short Notice Question. I wonder whether the Government has become so inefficient that it was not able to get the information within this time.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Can we have an assurance that the report shall be laid on the Table of the House before the close of this session?

Mr. Speaker: How long will the Minister take to complete the enquiry and let the House have the information?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: At least three weeks.

Shri Vajpayee: Who is holding the enquiry?

Mr. Speaker: We will take up the next Short Notice Question.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I rise on a point of order. When a Short Notice Question is given it is in the discretion of the Minister either to accept that Short Notice Question or not to accept it. But when he accepts a Short Notice Question it is expected that he is in possession of the full information and would be able to give the information to the House. When the hon. Minister accepts a short notice

question he should give at least the necessary and relevant information.

Mr. Speaker: Evidently, the hon. Member is criticising the Minister for having accepted the Short Notice Question.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: No, Sir.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: No, Sir, for not giving full information to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Then, no Minister will hereafter accept a short notice question at all. Since a number of hon. Members are rising in their seats, it can be taken that many hon. Members are interested in this, because such a thing ought not to have happened. And if the Chief Minister of a State is involved, it assumes a greater proportion. So, the hon. Minister wants to apprise the House of the position as early as possible. He is not indifferent. He is taking immediate steps to have an investigation and to find out the position. As soon as the information is in his possession . . .

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Three weeks.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a time limit. In the meanwhile, even earlier, if he is in possession of the information, he will make a report to the House.

Shri Vajpayee: Who is making the enquiry?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Could you press the Minister to give the report before the close of this session?

Mr. Speaker: Order order. We will go to the next question.

Floods in Orissa

S.N.Q. No. 8. Shri P. G. Deb: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable loss to telephone and other telegraph lines due to recent floods in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to restore the facilities in Orissa; and

(c) the total loss to the Government on account of this flood?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Yes.

(b) Most of the telecommunication facilities, which were affected, have been resumed.

(c) The loss of property is estimated at Rs. 40,000 approximately.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know for how many days the northern subdivisions of Sambalpur were cut off from telephone and telegraphic communications and what steps have been taken to meet the emergency, and the cost involved?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We have restored most of the communications, as I have already informed the hon. Member. As a matter of fact, the line from Calcutta to Cuttack is now working; so also the radio-telephone between Bombay and Cuttack.

Shri P. G. Deb: Owing to the harrowing tales being received from the sub-divisions of Rairakhole and Deogarh of Sambalpur District, may I know what quick and extraordinary steps have been taken by the Government for restoration and construction of national highways in those parts?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: As I said, we have taken every possible steps to restore the lines. As a matter of fact, when the Governor of Orissa was here, he talked to me about it and I asked him if there is any trouble he should telephone to me. Since I had no telephone call from him it means that the telephone is working properly.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

सड़क परिवहन पदाधिकारियों के लिए प्रशिक्षण-
व-धननुसन्धान संस्था

*६१७. श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की