

- (iv) Steps have been taken by Government to move an additional one million tons of coal by sea route to Southern and Western India since May, 1961.
- (v) Old wagons which had earlier been withdrawn from service have been pressed into service again by reconditioning them for short lead movements.
- (vi) A drive has been instituted to increase the originating wagon load by permitting loading to the extent of 2 tons in excess of the carrying capacity of a wagon.
- (vii) Manufacture of wagons is being speeded up.
- (viii) Movement by road of Coals of Grade II and lower grades as well soft coke has been liberalised with effect from the 24th July, 1961 to reduce the pressure on rail-transport.

दिल्ली स्टेशन पर कंसेशन आर्डरों का धोके से जारी किया जाना

*७९. श्री सरजू पांडेय :
श्री मो० व० ठाकुर :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री ८ अगस्त, १९६१ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ११४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली स्टेशन पर रियायती आदेशों के धोखे से जारी करने का मामला जो विशेष पुलिस को सौंपा गया था क्या उसमें जांच समाप्त हो चुकी है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका विवरण क्या है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री सै० वें० रामस्वामी)

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) सवाल नहीं उठता ।

Second-hand Viscounts

*83. Shri Agadi: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 622 on the 17th August, 1961 and state:

(a) the finalised purchase price of the two second-hand Viscounts for the Indian Airlines Corporation;

(b) whether the delivery of these air-crafts has been effected;

(c) what is the present price of new Viscount; and

(d) the reasons for preferring the second-hand Viscounts to new ones?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) The Indian Airlines Corporation has entered into a contract for the purchase of two Viscounts at a price of Rs. 61 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 700 series Viscounts which is the model in use in the Indian Airlines Corporation are not being manufactured any longer. The Vickers are manufacturing 800 series only. If a special order is placed with Vickers for 700 series Viscounts, the cost may be more than Rs. 50 lakhs each.

(d) The second-hand Viscounts are preferred because of their lower cost and the advantage that they will be of the same series as those already in use in the Indian Airlines Corporation, thus facilitating their maintenance and operation.

Cement Concrete Sleepers

*84. Shri Goray: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have used the cement concrete Railway sleepers on the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, on how many lines the same have been used and since when; and

(c) the reasons for not using them on other railway lines?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Railways are carrying out trials with concrete sleepers to examine their suitability, life and behaviour under Indian conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

'Indian Navigator'

*86. { Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

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

(a) whether judicial enquiry has been held for the loss of thirteen lives in 'Indian Success' and 'Indian Navigator' episode of the 31st December, 1960;

(b) if so, by whom and where and what are the main findings; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take on the basis of the findings?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). A formal investigation into the circumstances leading to the loss of s.s. 'Indian Navigator' with the accompanying loss of 13 lives ex s.s. 'Indian Success' has since been completed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta. According to the findings of the Court, the s.s. 'Indian Navigator' sank as a consequence of the explosions and subsequent fires and it cannot be said that any person or persons were responsible for the loss of the vessel. Captain Williams, Commander of the s.s. 'Indian Success', was unfortunately forgetful about the safety of 13 members of the crew of the s.s. 'Indian Success' who had been sent as a boarding party to

the s.s. 'Indian Navigator' and for this the Court has censured him under the provisions of section 371 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. The Court have held that it cannot be said that the loss of 13 lives was caused by the wrongful act of anybody.

(c) The report of the formal investigation is at present under examination of Government.

Sachdev Committee Recommendations on the Power Shortage in Bihar and Bengal

*88. { Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. B. Thakore:
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri N. M. Deb:

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

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations and findings of the Sachdev Committee on the power shortage in Bihar and Bengal;

(b) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted by Government and steps taken to implement them; and

(c) whether the recommendations of the Committee to scrutinise the working of the D.V.C. and causes of failure in the supply of electricity some months ago, has been accepted?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The recommendations and findings of the Sachdev Committee are still under consideration in consultation with the Governments of Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage.