

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be difficult for me. I am sorry. I will go according to the list.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: In view of the series of accidents in recent months, may I know whether the recommendations of the Railway Enquiry Committee of 1954 were effectively implemented?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question has been put. The answer may be given.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am sorry. Yes.

Shri Narasimhan: Cannot Question No. 293 be taken?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already said I will go according to the list.

Broad Gauge line from Guntakal to Hospet

*269. **Shri Agadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the extending of the broad gauge line from Guntakal to Hospet on Southern Railway is finally decided for facilitating the iron ore traffic;

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started and completed;

(c) the total estimated cost of this line extension;

(d) if the reply to the part (a) above be in the negative, whether there is any proposal of this nature;

(e) if so, the reason for delaying the same; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Government of Mysore are not in favour of the proposal since it is detrimental to the development of the Mysore State West Coast Ports?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The scheme is under consideration.

(b) Preliminary investigation and Engineering Survey are in progress.

Decision on the commencement of construction of this line will be taken after consideration of the survey report. It is too early to say when the work may be completed.

(c) About Rs. 630 lakhs.

(d) and (e). Do not arise, in view of replies to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(f) No such advice has been received from the Government of Mysore.

Shri Shankaraiya: May I know whether along with this line, the Hospet Kharwar line will be taken linking with Hubli?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is much too early to say anything at this stage.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Deputy Minister for Railways Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, during his tour in the south, has categorically stated that this line will be taken up during the Third Plan. Now, the Minister says that it is under consideration.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It will be surveyed.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That was for election purposes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Ex-Food and Civil Supply Staff

*270. **Shri Nath Pal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after absorption of the Ex-Food and Civil Supply Staff in Railways they did not get the higher starting salary in spite of their long and past service to the Government;

(b) whether all other Central Ministries except the Railways have granted the higher starting salary to the Ex-Food and Civil Supply Staff absorbed under them;

(c) whether there is any uniform policy in this regard in all the Central Government Departments;

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to have a uniform policy in respect of the ex-employees of the Food and Civil Supplies in Railways and treat them on par with other Railway employees;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has not as yet implemented the directions in respect of ex-Food and Civil Supply Staff in Railways issued by the Home Ministry vide No. F 16/16/56 CS (C) dated the 27th November, 1957; and

(f) if not, what action Government propose to take to implement the same by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No general orders were issued by the Ministry of Finance but the pay of such employees re-appointed to Civil posts under various Ministries (excluding Railways) was fixed on merits of each case.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (b) above, the question of uniform policy does not arise. On re-appointment on Railways, parity of treatment with other Railways employees has been afforded to them.

(e) and (f). The orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs are permissive in nature and the Ministry of Railways have accordingly decided not to grant higher starting pay to the ex-staff of Civil Supplies and Food Department on Railways.

Shri Nath Pai: I am afraid the Ministry is trying to shield this discriminatory treatment, which runs counter to the practice of other Ministries, by pinning on the word 'permissive'. Is it not the case that equity demands that as the other Ministries have taken into consideration the past services and have adjusted the pay, the Railway Ministry should also do likewise?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri Nath Pai: No; I am asking whether that is not the practice of other Ministries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The information is known to the hon. Member; the facts have been admitted. The hon. Member wants that the Railway Ministry should also do like that. That is clearly a suggestion for action. So, what could I do?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development of Shipping

*252. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 155 on the 8th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any response has since been received from the public and private sector shipping companies in connection with the emphasis laid by the Director General of Shipping to go ahead 'full steam' with their development plans and utilise the funds which had been allocated for development of shipping; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No detailed plans for expansion of tonnage have been received from any shipping company so far. However individual requests for purchase of second-hand ships or for construction of new ships are being received and are being considered on merits. Since April, 1961, three secondhand ships have been acquired and nine new cargo ships have been ordered on Hindustan Shipyard, Ltd., Visakhapatnam, totalling 1,09,585 G.R.T.

Export of Locomotives and Coaches

*261. **Shri P. C. Borrooah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred