

(b) if so, under whose instructions it was done and why?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A telegram addressed to the Prime Minister and three other persons was lodged at the Jammu Telegraph Office on 26-4-1957. Its transmission was withheld under the orders of the local authority empowered to deal with such matters.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: May I know what were the reasons?

Shri Raj Bahadur: These reasons are best known to the local authorities.

Shri B. C. Ghose: Is it the usual practice for the local authorities to hold up telegrams? Is that power now vested in the local authorities everywhere?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is given in the rules which are well known Para 90, P & T Manual Vol II Part II empowers certain authorities to take such action in the case of telegrams as they deem fit in the public interest, if they think that a particular telegram is such as would spread a scare or tend to create a false impression in the public. They are empowered under the Manual.

Shri B. C. Ghose: Has the Ministry any authority if it receives complaints to inquire into whether that authority was exercised rightly or wrongly?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In this case, I am afraid, perhaps, it was not exercised properly. We have got departmental orders already that in case a telegram is addressed to higher authorities or other dignitaries of such stature, it should not be intercepted. Fresh instructions have been issued in this behalf again.

Dr. K. B. Menon: What exactly was objectionable in this telegram?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It may be from the point of view of the local authorities. As I said, spreading scare or something like that . . .

Mr. Speaker: It was withheld as objectionable. Is it open to the hon. Minister to refer to the objectionable matter in this House?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: There is nothing objectionable in the telegram, I have got it here and I shall read out.

Mr. Speaker: No, no I am not here to decide. The District Magistrate is empowered to withhold wherever it is objectionable or otherwise.

Dr. K. B. Menon: Has there been anything objectionable in the telegram addressed to the Minister?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister said that a mistake has been committed, that telegrams addressed to superior officers ought to have been communicated and that there was default in this matter. Next question.

Economy on Railways

*665. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what measures have been adopted by the Railway Board to streamline the office procedure, the system of correspondence and returns to ensure efficiency and economy as indicated in their Press Note of the 1st July, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The importance of the following measures, amongst others, is being specially kept in view for the purpose of achieving improvement in efficiency and economy.

- (1) Rationalisation of information received from Railways by revising and combining the various returns wherever feasible;
- (ii) Reduction of noting, keeping it to the practicable disposal of issues involved,
- (iii) Resolving matters and expediting decisions through discussions between officers as far as possible, instead of through noting, particularly

where more than two branches are concerned;

- (iv) Elimination of scope for unnecessary correspondence, both by a careful check (both pre and post) over outward letters and by ensuring that instructions to Railways are precise and clear with an appreciation of the practical difficulties which are likely to arise. Other measures had been initiated even earlier, as part of the Central Secretariat "Organisation and Methods" Control. These steps included monthly meetings of Directors of the Railway Board with the Secretary, for the purpose of co-ordination and elimination of overlapping of work, decentralisation of authority wherever possible, etc.

Shri Dasappa: The answer being too long, it may be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: ... only one sentence more.

A Pilot Scheme was also instituted entrusting the detailed examination of work in specified branches to 4 different railways, so that the scope for improvement which comes to light through this examination may serve as a guidance for all Railways.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: My first submission is, when the answer is too long and all these details are given, it is much better that it is laid on the Table of the House so that we may be in a better position to ask supplementaries. In any case, according to this press note, these measures have been adopted as a substitute for control teams appointed by the Finance Minister for other Ministries. May I know how these measures serve as a substitute for the control teams appointed by the Finance Minister to exercise economy in other Ministries?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I thought I had given very detailed information.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I am afraid, the hon. Minister does not appreciate the background of the question and does not understand it. My question was whether the Railway Ministry has adopted any analogous steps as have been adopted by other Ministries and the Finance Ministry. In relation to other Ministries, they have appointed certain teams to go about effecting economy. The answer given to me was that they have taken measures in this respect as detailed in the press note. Now, we know what measures have been adopted as have been explained by the hon. Minister. My question, therefore, is, how do these measures serve as a substitute for the teams which have been appointed to effect economies in the other Ministries.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We in the Railways have also appointed an Economy Committee. That committee had a meeting on the 26th of June this year. They have periodical meetings whenever it is necessary to discuss what progress they have made and whether any additional steps are necessary.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know what will be the total amount of saving if the measures mentioned in your reply are implemented in a full year?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is yet too early to give details.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the hon. Minister gets any periodical returns? The hon. Minister will recollect that in his Budget speech he said that he will see that all the representations will be disposed of within six months' time. May I know whether any effective measures have been taken to give effect to that promise? What are those measures, because that comes under the press note?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Steps that have been taken, I have given at great length. These are the steps that I have taken and I think these steps are effective.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any extra staff has been appointed for this economy committee, so, what is the extra expenditure involved?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want economy or not? Are the same persons who incur the expenditure to sit in judgment over themselves and be asked to economise or to suggest economy? Therefore, other persons have to do so.

Shri Anthony Pillai: The implication of the question is whether the extra cost on the extra staff will be equal to the economy achieved

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to make a mockery of it. Wherever economy has to be effected, some other officer or some other person has to be appointed to look into it. Otherwise, the very man who has been carrying on with that staff will not do so. Therefore, whatever additional expenditure is involved has to be incurred. There is no good merely pooh-poohing it and saying: at least are you going to get the amount spent on this

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am sorry that...

Mr. Speaker: Let us be more serious. The hon. Member may come to that seat at any time, I am expecting it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I say a word by way of personal explanation? You used a word which I did not use. It is not a mockery. In many departments economy committees are appointed, Deputy-Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Under-Secretaries are appointed, and finally that becomes a department. Therefore, I wanted to know whether the hon. Railway Minister who is very careful about economy has got any more involvements or not.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The question of the hon. Member presents a caricature of the steps taken in the various Ministries for economy. He says an economy unit is set up and ultimately that

unit itself becomes a part of the Ministry, and thereby adds to the expenditure and does not effect any economy. I do not think the efforts of the various Ministries deserve that caricature by the hon. Member. Some additional staff is necessary to scrutinize expenses, but I may inform the hon. Member that no extra expenditure is involved in the committee that we have set up.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes additional expenditure has to be involved. If hon. Members, or a committee of Parliament has to go, are they to go on air? Even on air they have to pay the charges.

Cold Storages

*666. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing:

(a) the number of cold storages with their capacities for preserving fruits and other perishable commodities, which are working in India as on the 30th June, 1957,

(b) the target fixed for cold storages in the Second Five Year Plan;

(c) what has been the progress during the First Five Year Plan; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to help developed cold storages during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) There are more than 100 cold storages in India. Information regarding their capacity has been called for from the State Governments which is awaited.

(b) Eight

(c) In the First Five Year Plan there was no scheme for setting up of cold storages in the public sector. The details of progress in the private sector are not available though some progress was made.

(d) The Government is giving help by procuring cement, steel and other