

it came down to 33. I think we are turning the corner but fluctuations are about to occur.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** I want the names of the companies. If the hon. Minister wants notice, he can say so, if he does not know the names.

**Shri Raj Bahadur rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid we are converting this into something which is not a very good Parliament. I warn the hon. Member. The hon. Member gets up. It is really unfortunate he is over there behind. I will give him a front seat. I have no objection. But he does not understand what is exactly going on; he butts in every time and makes it impossible for me to go on.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** There was a dispute with the labour regarding the use of mechanised equipment for loading and unloading of ships. May I know whether the mechanical equipment is now being fully utilised for loading and unloading?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We are not leaving any stone unturned to ensure that we make the maximum use of the mechanical equipment we have got.

#### **Drought and Flood Conditions in the Country**

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\*1537. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri Liladhar Kotaki:**  
**Shri B. S. Murthy:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the overall picture of drought, normal rain and floods occurring in various parts of the country since June, 1957;

(b) the extent of areas in each State affected by drought and floods; and

(c) the extent to which it has been possible to utilise canal water in the areas affected by drought to do sowing and transplanting of crops?

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 26].

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** From the statement it appears that large areas have been affected by floods, droughts and deficiency of rainfall. I would like to know whether any estimate has been prepared of the damage caused by floods, droughts, etc., to the standing crops and due to non-sowing and non-transplantation?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** Fortunately this year, the loss by floods was much less compared to the previous two or three years. So far as the estimate of losses is concerned, no such estimate has been received by the Central Government.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** It appears that in the Orissa and Chota Nagpur areas there has been deficiency of grain. I would like to know whether transplantation of paddy in those areas is being made now.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** There has been very good rainfall in Chota Nagpur during the last few days, and I hope the agricultural conditions will improve there.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** In the statement my name has been given as one of the three, whereas the list does not contain my name. I do not know in your list whether my name does exist or not.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have got his name in my list. Possibly this was added later on. I will look into this matter. At the time when it went to the press, possibly his name was not there. It might have been added later on, because all other questions of a similar nature are put in and the names are added.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** If my name could be given here, why was not the name supplied to you?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is here; I have got his name here. I am coming to him next. Is that all that he wants to ask?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I said, I want an information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does he not want to put any other question?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Of course, I will come in the round.

**Mr. Speaker:** How long?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** In the correction slip, his name appears.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Murthy.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is there any estimate made of the damage done by the floods as well as droughts?

**Mr. Speaker:** In the whole of India?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It has been already answered.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** Are Government aware that in Bombay State in certain parts there is no rain and due to the drought some crops are going dry?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** My information is that Bombay State is affected by floods; there is no drought.

#### Report of the Technical Railway Official Team

\*1538. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of the technical railway officials which had visited the U.S.A., Canada and some European countries has submitted on its return any report to Government regarding effecting improvements in the operational efficiency of the Railways;

(b) if so, what are the main features of that report; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the implementation of that report?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). The Hon. Member perhaps has in mind the team of Technical Officers who went to Washington to participate

in the negotiations for a loan from the World Bank. During their stay abroad they took the opportunity to visit some of the railway installations in America, Canada, U.K., France and West Germany. The subjects that received their attention and the impressions they gathered are given in the handout that was prepared for the Press Conference on 1st August, 1957, a copy of which has been laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 77.]

The observations made by the Technical Officers are under consideration.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** The Technical Mission had under consideration a scheme to increase the load of goods trains by a thousand tons. May I know the suggestion made by the Mission with regard to this particular problem and to what extent it has been implemented in the Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur plants?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** The devices that we intend to introduce to enable the trains to carry heavier loads are the buffer couplers. There is a team of American experts who are in India. They also recommended the introduction of buffer couplers. We have asked them to refer back to their firm in America who devised the buffer couplers to give us a practical demonstration of the same. On the successful implementation of these experiments, we will further extend it, if necessary.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** It has also recommended that the net load of a wagon should be raised to about 50 tons as against the present load of 22 tons. May I know if any steps have been taken in this regard?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** That is true. It will have to be done after we have carried out the experiments, as we have decided, with the buffer couplers.

**Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** Will it mean remodelling of wagons?