

also given. When tenders are received the technical people have to examine whether the tenders are according to specifications which we have advertised or not and whether the stability of the party is such that in case the contract is given to them, they will be in a position to fulfil the contract or not. These things have to be taken into consideration before the tender is decided and, therefore, it may not be necessarily the lowest tender that is accepted but the lowest acceptable tender.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I wanted to know in reply to the question the names of the leading countries. Are we not entitled to know the names of the leading countries which have tendered for the specified items asked for?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I am prepared to read out the whole list.

Mr. Speaker: Have all the countries tendered?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: What are the names of those countries?

Mr. Speaker: It is one thing to say that tenderes have been invited from as many as 18 countries. Have all of them tendered?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Many of them have tendered.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member will put a separate question if he wants further particulars.

Strike Notices by Station Masters' Association

S.N.Q. {
No. 10. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Station Masters' and Assistant

Station Masters' Association has served on the Railways authorities a notice of strike from the midnight of September 14-15, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 125].

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: From the statement I find that there is no mention about free quarters. Is the Government prepared to give some information about this? Do they get free quarters, particularly the Assistant Station Masters or have they to pay anything?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): It is obvious from the statement that they do not get free quarters. It is also obvious from the answer that this question comes under the purview of the pay enquiry commission which is going to be set up.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is not one of the major complaints to the effect that although the Central Pay Commission had recommended seven different scales for this category of workers, the railways have squeezed 87 per cent to the lowest scale? Is it not one of the major complaints?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will rather request the hon Member not to put questions on certain presumptions and hypothetical questions.

Shri Frank Anthony: On a point of order. It was not made available to me. Am I not entitled to know whether it is one of the major complaints made?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: What is the use of my making a statement if all sorts of queries are put?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: From the statement I find that under "Amenities" there is provision for subsidized hostels for the children of railway employees. From the budget papers I find that there was only one hostel and that is at Secunderabad. May I know how many more are going to be established?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I said in my budget speech, the idea is to have at least one in every regional language zone.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement I find that one of the demands is that there should not be naked vision tests for those who are actually in service. May I know whether this aspect of the demand will be reconsidered because I find from the statement that they are not going to consider this demand at all.

Mr. Speaker: Without vision test how can they go as station masters?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: They have been working for several years. Now there is a vision test and if they are not successful they are sent away.

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow the hon. Minister to commit anything.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have nothing to add in that respect as to what has been stated in the statement itself.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: On a point of order I had put this question. But I am not given a chance to put a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: You can put your question.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: From the statement I find that on the eye test some station masters and assistant station masters are removed from service. May I know whether they are given a chance for any service other than as station masters and assistant station masters?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think that is the standing arrangement in the railways. If certain persons, from whom a certain standard of vision is expect-

ed, are not found fit according to that standard, alternative jobs are found for them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that the vision test that is conducted on the Indian railways is much more than the international standard approved by the ILO?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The vision test that is required from the Indian railways staff is necessary for Indian conditions.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether the demands of the telecommunication employees will also be considered by the pay commission?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If the hon. Member refers to the terms of reference of the pay commission, which was announced by the Finance Minister, she will find that the case of all Central Government employees is covered.

Floods in Imphal River.

S.N.Q. No. 11. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) Whether it is a fact that the embankments of the Imphal river gave way in three places during the last week of July, 1957, and have flooded several villages in the Thoubal Tehsil of Manipur;

(b) what is the extent of damage to houses, property and standing crops as a result of the recent flood in Manipur,

(c) whether Government took proper and sufficient steps to prevent the bunds giving way and securing the safety of the bunds with the co-operation of the local people, and

(d) what steps have been taken for relief of the affected people?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (d). Three minor breaches on the Imphal