

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The FAO is the proper and appropriate authority, and through them we want to proceed. We do not have, at present, facilities to go 300 miles off-shore and estimate it. We do not have fishing vessels to go 300 or 400 miles on the sea for this purpose.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has the Government any reason to suppose that these dead fish were not from the Arabian sea itself but that they came floating from some other region?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The whole thing is under investigation. The scientists are of the opinion that this sort of death is not uncommon because of the lack of oxygen in certain waters, even mass scale deaths of fish occur a number of times. This is not the first time. But whether this particular type of death in that area is because of this reason or whether it is by various other causes—whether there are other reasons or only natural reasons—we have to find out.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: I want to know whether Government have any idea so far, as to how this will affect the fisheries of the west coast for some time to come?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It has not yet affected, in this season the west coast. This is now off-season for fishing there. This is the monsoon season. But there are certain complaints from West Bengal that they are not able to catch more fish in the sea. West Bengal is far away from the area now referred to.

Economy on Railways

*799. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the important measures adopted by the Railway Board to give effect to the strictest economy in Railway expenditure and to ensure constant vigilance as stated in their Press report of 1st July, 1957; and

(b) what saving in money and personnel is estimated?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 122]

(b) It is too early yet to assess what savings are likely to accrue from the various measures adopted during the past several months and intensified recently. It may be mentioned, however, that one post of Director and three posts of Joint Directors have very recently been surrendered in the Board's establishment (saving of about Rs 90 000 per annum).

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if there are any reasons for not associating non-officials in this committee as has been done by all other Ministries especially the Finance Ministry?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am not aware of non-officials being associated in other Ministries, but in our Ministry we give plenty of weight to any suggestion that is made by any non-official.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I hope the hon. Minister is aware that on the floor of this House, the Finance Minister gave details as to how the non-officials have been associated and how teams of officers have been sent out for the particular project. May I know if there are any particular reasons why the Ministry of Railways feels that the association of non-officials is not necessary and that they could do only with additional Members and Directors?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I do not think there is necessity of going in that way in the Railway Ministry. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member himself said that the Finance Ministry gave the details of the team of officers with

which non-officials were associated to go into the question of the new projects. Well, we have got the answer, and the answer has been given in relation to the Railway Ministry as such. We are trying to economise as far as possible in the Broad and then it will be taken in respect of the railways and seen what is possible to do there.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: In view of the urgent need for economy on which the attention of the various Government departments is concentrated at the moment, may I know if the recent considerable expansion of the Railway Board is not contrary to that policy and whether the hon Minister would consider reducing this expenditure?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is another question which I have answered. The Railway Board was strengthened at the recommendation of the Estimates Committee. The membership of the Board was not increased, but some additional Members of the Railway Board were posted a year back. That was in view of the increased work-load on the Railway Board itself. As the Deputy Minister just now said, we have been reducing the posts and we are examining what further posts it will be possible to do away with in Railway Board itself.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether any interim orders have already been issued to effect economy, as has been done in all other Ministries, as the Prime Minister informed the other day and may I know whether a similar step has been taken by the railways?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far as the directive regarding the filling of vacancies for certain period is concerned, the general directive issued to other Ministries is also applicable to railways.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mileage rates of Goods and Passenger Traffic

S.N.Q. No. 7. Shri Tyagi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have taken a decision to reduce the inflated mileage rates of goods and passengers traffic on hill, and semi-hill sections of State-owned railways in view of the rampant conditions of unemployment and poverty obtaining in the most unproductive and undeveloped areas of hills in India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Yes, Sir. The details of the decisions are given in the statement placed on the Table of Lok Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No. 123.]

श्री नरत बर्मान : क्या ये जान सकता हूँ कि किन किन रेलवेज पर यह आदेश लागू होगा ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह तो सदस्य महोदय प्रगर स्टेटमेंट देख लें तो उनको मालूम हो जायेगा ।

Railway Accident

S.N.Q. No. 8.—Shrimati Renu Chakravarty.—Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether an engine travelling without lights on the Eastern Railway at Ballygunge and Gobra crossing of this railway ran over several people;

(b) how many were killed and injured;

(c) whether it is a fact that the driver notified the failure of lights to the Station authorities at Ballygunge and if so, how he was allowed to proceed;

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the dead and injured; and

(e) whether any enquiry has been instituted.