

there was good quality coal and in sufficient quantity. That Ministry is not prepared to do so and so we have not progressed any further.

Shri Amjad Ali: The lease for working out the coal mines has already been given. May I know whether the Railway Ministry has prepared any final estimate for the railway line from the mine areas of Garo Hills?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We will do so as soon as we are approached by the Government of Assam.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : आप मिनिस्ट्री आफ प्रोडक्शन से इस सम्बन्ध में जो जांच कराने वाले हैं, उस जांच में आप को कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां : उस की जांच करने के लिये रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री को कोई समय नहीं चाहिये । वर्कस्, माइन्स एन्ड पावर जो आपकी प्रोडक्शन मिनिस्ट्री है उससे इस बारे में पूछिये ।

INDIAN SHIPPING

*1285. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that foreign ships leave Indian ports fully loaded while Indian ships leave partly loaded?

(b) If so, have Government enquired into the causes and taken steps in the matter?

(c) Have Government estimated the life and longevity of the Indian ships in service including coastal ones?

(d) If so, how many ships require re-juvenation and modernisation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Statistics show that the Indian Shipping Companies have been carrying on an average per sailing larger tonnages than the Foreign Lines. Information regarding shipments from other Ports is being collected.

(c) and (d). 46 ships of 97,324 gross tons employed in the coastal and over-

seas trades are over 20 years of age and may require replacement in the near future.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether these shipping companies possess ships of modern and efficient units? If not, whether they are facing competition from foreign ships?

Shri Alagesan: The tonnage that is required for replacement by new ships on the coastal trade is about 37 per cent. and on the overseas trade about 3 per cent. As the House is aware, Sir, Government are assisting the shipping companies with loans for replacing their old ships and purchasing comparatively new ones.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that these shipping companies are unable to move on with their expansion schemes due to paucity of funds? May I know whether the Five Year Plan will give them sufficient help or not?

Shri Alagesan: A sum of Rs. 6 crores to be advanced as loans has been set apart for this purpose. Of course, the shipping companies also are required to find another sum of Rs. 3 crores. It is estimated that the total cost of replacement of all these 46 ships will be within that sum.

TAMLUK OUT-AGENCY

*1286. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how the Tamluk Out-agency on the Eastern Railway is working at present?

(b) How many are the transport buses at the disposal of the Out-agency to connect the Panchkura Railway Station?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no shed nearabout the Panchkura Railway Station either for the buses or for the passengers to take shelter from rain and sun?

(d) Have Government received any representation in this matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport

(Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Tamluk Out-Agency is functioning satisfactorily.

(b) Five.

(c) There is no shed adjoining Punchkura Railway Station for buses. Covered waiting hall accommodation for passengers exists in the station building, which is close by.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether over and above these 5 buses of the Out-Agency, there are other buses running?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Possibly there are; I have no definite information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that one Association has been amalgamated with this Out-Agency so that the number has increased to 15 ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They have made a joint request to this effect, Sir, and it was agreed to by the Railway Board.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, so far the policy followed by the Railway is that preference should be given to outsiders in giving licences for out-agencies. May I know whether Government have taken steps for the sanction of licences to outsiders?

Shri Alagesan: What does he mean by outsiders, Sir?

Shri S. C. Samanta: I mean outsiders running in the line. In the line there are other buses run by outsiders.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): As you are aware, Sir, these permits are issued by the State Governments. They have set up statutory authorities for these things and to the extent the railways are consulted they will help. I do not know that the railways are associated with the issue of these permits. Naturally, when one contractor wishes to have an out-agency he comes forward with a permit.

PANIPAT-GOHANA RAILWAY LINE

*1287. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of work to restore the Panipat-Gohana Railway Track on the Northern Railway has commenced; and

(b) if not, when this is likely to be taken up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The question is under consideration in consultation with the Punjab Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If I recollect aright, this was included in the construction programme of 1953-54. Will the Government be able to stick to that programme?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Was it included at all. If at all it was included the question of sticking to the programme arises.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The original policy of the railway administration was to replace all the lines that were dismantled in 1942, but, later on, Sir, we received a request from the Government of the Punjab to divert the main railway line from Ambala to Kalka via Chandigarh and this new work has been given the priority.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know where this line stands now in the order of priority of replacing the old tracts?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): As the Parliamentary Secretary said, the priority was given to this Chandigarh project at the instance of the State Government. I cannot tell the hon. Member the exact priority, but the restoration of this Panipat-Gohana line has not been dropped and, in fact, we are in communication with the State Government in regard to this.