

## SURVEY OF RAILWAY LINK FOR CHANDIGARH

\*1288. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of rail link for Chandigarh has been undertaken; and

(b) whether it would be brought on the main Ambala-Kalka line or it would be connected by a loopline with the old track?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The survey has been completed and the Railway Administration has been authorised to take in hand the construction of the proposed diversion for bringing the new Capital on to the Ambala-Kalka main line. The work is now in progress.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is it intended to throw out of service the loop line or will that be continued?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not quite follow the question.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** If Chandigarh is brought on the main Ambala-Kalka route, there would be a part of the present track that would be thrown out of service. I want to know whether that part would be used and remain as a loop line or whether it will be demolished and dismantled.

**Shri Alagesan:** I am not able to say at present, Sir. I think that line will also remain; I do not think it will be demolished.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** How long will the Government take to place Chandigarh on the main line?

**Shri Alagesan:** We hope to complete it before the end of this year.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Calendar year?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Is it the construction or the running of trains also?

**Shri Alagesan:** The construction work; and soon after the running of trains will follow.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Has any estimate of the costs been prepared?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir; the Northern Railway has been asked to go ahead with the work while the detailed estimates are under scrutiny.

## SUSPENSION OF RAILWAY STAFF ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

\*1289. **Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of Class I and II officers of the Southern Railway who are under suspension at present?

(b) What are the charges levelled against them?

(c) How many officers belong to the ex-Mysore State Railway out of those who are under suspension?

(d) Has the Committee to enquire into the corrupt practices obtaining in the Railways been constituted?

(e) If so, who are the members of the Committee?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Class I officers: Nil  
Class II Officers: Two

(b) Serious misconduct in having misused privilege passes and grainshop facilities etc.

(c) Both the officers belong to the ex-Mysore State Railway.

(d) Yes.

(e) A statement showing the names of the members of the Committee is placed at the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 28].

**Shri Vittal Rao:** May I know, Sir, if any prosecution is likely to be launched in these cases?

**Shri Alagesan:** Sir, investigation is going on; in one case the matter is under the consideration of the Railway Board.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** May I know why members of a particular political party have been excluded from the Committee that has been appointed to enquire into the corrupt practices prevailing in the railways?

**Shri Alagesan:** It is not constituted on strictly party lines. The complexion of the whole House was taken into consideration and the Committee was constituted with a view to achieve the maximum results.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know, Sir, since when these officers are under suspension and when are the cases likely to be decided?

**Shri Alagesan:** In the case of one, it will be decided soon. In the other case the matter is still under investigation.

**Shri Shivananjappa:** May I know the names of these officers and their ranks?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is enough to know that there are two officers.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Is it a fact that between the suspension of these officers and the disposal of their cases.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I would like to say one thing. Now, it is true that they are placed under suspension. I am not saying anything with respect to these officers; I know nothing about them. The Minister says that investigation is going on. It may result in acquittal; it may result in conviction, if they are found guilty. Therefore, except in so far as general information is asked, we need not go into the names of the officers. Possibly it may be found by the investigating authority that one of them or both of them may be found guilty or none of them may be found guilty, in which case there is no difficulty of their being discharged and retained in service. Then there will be so much of bad odour about them.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I am not asking on this particular case. Sir. Is it a fact that between the suspension of railway officers for alleged corrupt practices and other offences and the disposal of cases against them, 3 years, 4 years and even 6 years are usually taken?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know where from my hon. friend derives this information. At least in this case it is not so and the delay caused in such cases is not entirely due to the administration.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** From the statement furnished by the hon. Minister it is seen that out of the 12 names none belongs to the Communist group. The hon. Minister said that the Committee was constituted according to the complexion of the House. May I know what was the complexion by which these members were appointed to the Committee?

**Shri Alagesan:** I thought that it was more or less fairly reflected in the composition of the Committee itself:

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** We see that the biggest group in the opposition has been left out. May I know the reason why it is so?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister thinks that it is quite fairly representative.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May we know from the hon. Minister why no Communist member was taken?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The same question was put by Mr. Vittal Rao and that is being expanded by Mr. Nayar.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** But no definite reply was given.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What can be done?

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** May I know what is the policy of the Government, whether the persons against whom the charges are brought are to be punished departmentally or to be sent up for prosecution in a court of law if the offences against them are serious?

**Shri Alagesan:** That will depend on each particular case. So far as these two officers are concerned, departmental action is being taken.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It all depends largely upon the seriousness of the case and the results of the investigation.

**Pandit K. C. Sharma:** My point is that if the cases are serious, they should be prosecuted.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It all depends on the report of the investigating

authority. It may say that there is a fit case for prosecution or that no prosecution will stand. It largely depends upon the report.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** May I know whether some of the officers were suspended for their sympathy with some of the political organisation?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is about corrupt practices for which they are charged. The Minister has already answered the question. Now, you are introducing complications by this.

IMPORT OF BOGIE UNDERFRAMES FROM  
BELGIUM

\*1290. **Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to answer given to unstarred question No. 1076 asked on the 16th April, 1953 and state how many bogie underframes indented from Belgium during the year 1952. have since been received?

(b) How many have been sent to the Hindustan Aircraft Limited?

(c) Is it a fact that the construction of coaches has been curtailed at Hindustan Aircraft from 13 coaches a month to 10 due to short supply of underframes?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) None so far, there having been some delays due to strikes in the works of the manufacturers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The outturn has had to be limited, for the present, to 10 per month due to short supply of underframes both from indigenous and foreign suppliers.

**Shri Vittal Rao:** Are the Government aware that very recently in reply to a question they stated that the supply of underframes has been augmented?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not remember to have said any such thing. Sir.

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CALCUTTA PORT WORKERS

\*1291. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the question of non-implementation of the Minimum Wages Act by the Calcutta Port Authorities to their scheduled workers, there was recently a mass-strike in the Calcutta Port; and

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated into the matter and what are their findings?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) There was a partial cessation of work in some sections of the Port on the 28th August 1953.

(b) No. The Port Commissioners are fully aware of the need for full implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and are taking steps to pay overtime at the rates laid thereunder with retrospective effect from the dates on which the staff became eligible for the benefits admissible under the Act.

I may add for the information of the hon. Members that the Port Trusts at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta have been instructed to take steps for the full implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The benefit will be extended to all categories of workers, minimum wages in respect of whom were fixed in 1951 or subsequently and to those also in respect of whom minimum wages have not so far been fixed. The Ministry of Transport have been requested to instruct Port Commissioners that no category of workers in respect of whom minimum rates of wages under the Act should be fixed are left out. The Clause restricting wage limits is being done away with. We have since decided to do away with the limits of Rs. 75/- per month or Rs. 3/- or more per day.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** I would like to know in a categorical answer from the Government whether there was actually a violation of this Minimum Wages Act by the authorities?