

RAILWAY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*169. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1391 asked on the 18th September, 1953 and state whether the examination of the report submitted in September, 1952 by the Special Officer appointed to conduct a survey of Co-operative Societies on Railways has since been concluded?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lay a copy of the same together with their recommendations on the Table of the House?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the credit Co-operative Societies on the railways have their accounts with the foreign banks still?

(d) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes. A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the chief recommendations of the Special Officer in his survey report [See Appendix II, annexure No. 2.]

The Report is under print and copies will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Yes.

(d) No proposal in this respect is under consideration of Government at present.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The statement enumerates 22 recommendations. Have all these recommendations been accepted by Government?

Shri Alagesan: Some of them have been accepted, Sir, but if the hon Member puts down a separate question I shall be glad to answer it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Especially the one recommending issue of free passes to office bearers and staff of the Stores for attending conferences, making purchases from wholesale centres, etc?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot say off-hand.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the present membership of railway co-operative societies?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know the present membership, but there are about thirty-two societies working.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the reasons for allowing some of these societies to have their accounts with foreign banks?

Shri Alagesan: They are scheduled banks. In fact, one of the banks, I understand, charges lesser rate of interest than even Indian banks.

MISLOADING OF WAGONS AT MODI-NAGAR

*170. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1008 asked on the 3rd September, 1953 and state whether the report of the joint enquiry conducted against the seven railway officials involved in the misloading of the wagons at Modinagar has since been received?

(b) What action has been taken against the officials concerned?

(c) Do Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

(d) What is the total amount recovered from Modi Industries for payment to the claimants?

(e) Had railways to incur any loss in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Report is under scrutiny by the competent authority and final orders will be passed shortly.

(c) No.

(d) A sum of Rs. 70,917/5/4 has been recovered from the Modi Industries for payment to the claimants.

(e) It is not anticipated that the Railway will be put to any loss in this case.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, Sir, the total amount of claims made on the Railways for misloading of the wagons?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, Sir about Rs. 70 thousand have been recovered from them. Apart from that as a result of a decree the Mody Company has paid Rs. 11,000 and odd.

Mr. Speaker: What was the total claim made?

Shri Alagesan: Rs. 99,540.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Are any of these employees under suspension and if so is any subsistence allowance being granted to them?

Shri Alagesan: 14 railway employees are involved in this case. Seven of them have already left—either retired or gone to Pakistan, etc. The enquiry against the rest is proceeding.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Are Government aware of the fact that some of these railway employees are under the service of Mody Industries today?

Shri Alagesan: That we are not aware of.

CONTRACT FOR RAILWAY BOGIE
UNDER FRAMES

*171. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1290 asked on the 15th September, 1953 and state whether Government propose to invoke the penalty provisions of the agreement, for failure on the part of the Belgian firm to supply the bogie under-frames indented for in 1952?

(b) If not, what course of action is contemplated?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The contract provides for deduction or recovery from the contractors liquidated damages in the event of failure

on their part to have the under-frames ready for delivery by the time stipulated if the delay shall have arisen from any cause which the Director General, India Store Department may admit as unreasonable ground for further time. The Director General, India Store Department, London, who placed the contract will, no doubt, take the delay and reasons leading to it into consideration when he makes payments against the order.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if any advice has since been received as to the likely dates when these underframes will be despatched?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, 200 under-frames have already been shipped. About 60 will be shortly shipped.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: How many of these under-frames will be sent to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory?

Shri Alagesan: That I cannot say.

HYDERABAD POSTAL CIRCLE

*172. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1009 asked on the 3rd September, 1953, and state what decision has since been reached regarding raising of the status of the Hyderabad Circle?

(b) If not, what are the reasons for the delay in arriving at a decision?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The question is still under examination.

(b) For a firm final decision possible recommendations of the proposed Boundary Commission have also to be awaited, apart from the general question of reorganisation of certain P. & T. Circles.

Shri Nanadas: By what time will a decision be taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to part (b) of the question.