

(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.

**Shri Nanadas:** Am I to understand then that there will be only one postal circle for Andhra and Hyderabad?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That depends upon the ultimate destiny of Hyderabad itself.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Does the hon. Minister mean that the solution of the question will depend upon the disintegration of Hyderabad?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We are not influenced by considerations of the boundary of States, but we have to see that we have got a reasonable adjustment of the boundaries of circles.

#### NEW LOCOMOTIVES

\*173. **Shri B. Y. Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Locomotive engines put on the rails during the half year 1st April 1953 to 30th September 1953;

(b) out of these the number imported and the value thereof in rupees;

(c) the value of those of indigenous manufacture; and

(d) how many over-aged engines were put off the rails during this period?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 84 locomotives.

(b) 54 locomotives.

Rs. 150 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 135 lakhs.

(d) 71 locomotives which were both overage and in a condition of advanced deterioration.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** May I know whether any of these locomotives are of the W. P. type?

**Shri Alagesan:** You mean the imported ones?

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Yes.

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is it a fact that many of these W. P. engines have cracked up within a few years of their being imported and had to be laid off?

**Shri Alagesan:** Sir, the question was raised even before on the floor of this House. It is true that the cylinders of some of the W. P. and W. G. engines cracked, but they were set right.

**Shri Jethalal Joshi:** May I know whether the Government have placed orders for 750 locomotives with certain foreign firms at a cost of Rs. 100 crores?

**Shri Alagesan:** Not 750 but for a lesser number. I cannot give the number off-hand.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** May I know how many of these engines were metre gauge and how many broad gauge—those of indigenous manufacture?

**Shri Alagesan:** Sixteen broad gauge and fourteen metre gauge.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** What is their productive capacity?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether these over-aged engines are used for goods trains or for passenger trains?

**Shri Alagesan:** Perhaps both. I am not quite aware.

#### COWDUNG GAS

\*174. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments for finding out a method of producing cowdung gas and using it for domestic and industrial purposes have been successful;

(b) if so, what are the difficulties in introducing it on a large scale; and

(c) whether any agency, official or non-official, has been working to that end?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) Experiments on producing gas from cowdung are in progress and have