

THE Dated 01.12.2014  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(Part I—Questions and Answers)  
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, the 26th March, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

POSTAL BAG CLEANING MACHINE

\*1315. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bag cleaning machine was installed by the Postal Department in Calcutta last year; and

(b) if so, what is its cost?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No; intimation has been received that the machine has been shipped from London on 1st March 1954.

(b) Its price is Rs. 39,707 F.O.B. London.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** When was the machine originally agreed to be delivered, and what is the reason for the delay in its delivery?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The indent for the machine was placed with the Director General, Supply and Disposal round about August 1952 and the order was actually placed towards December 1952. The delivery was expected and also stipulated to be effected in twelve months' time. There has been a delay of about three or four months.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** We have been told in the Annual Report that the delivery had to be delayed by the U.K. firm because some electrical equipment was not there. In view of this, have we taken any steps to see that even after the delivery is effected, when the occasion for repairing the machine arises, the spare parts will be available within a reasonable time should the machine go out of order?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It is true that the manufacturing firm could not deliver the machine because they were lacking in certain essential constituent electrical parts. We shall take good care to see that whatever spares we require for the repair of this machine in case of break-down are also made available to us.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know how much work this machine gives?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The cost of the machine is Rs. 39,707. As regards the work, it can clean as many as 1200 bags a day. To give the House an idea, I may say that in Calcutta alone there are about 3,000 to 4,000 bags to be handled every day.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** How many hands will go out of employment as a result of this machine?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Not one, because at the moment we have not got any such device by which we can clean these bags. As a matter of fact, it was becoming rather difficult, and dangerous also, for the workers themselves, to handle these unclean bags and so we have taken this new machine.