

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I thought the hon. Member wanted to put a supplementary on this. Hon. Members are too much in advance of the times.

COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL

\*1367. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a Bill regulating the duties and powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General as contemplated under Article 149 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah):** (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration but it is not possible to say at this stage, when a bill will be introduced in the Parliament;

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Under what Act are they being regulated now?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** Under an Order of 1936 as adapted by an Order of 1947.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Have not the duties and responsibilities increased considerably since that date?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** Those duties and responsibilities are the same as those that were being undertaken by the Auditor-General before 1950.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** In view of the extreme, pivotal importance of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, have Government satisfied themselves on two tests in regard to the appointment of the next holder of the office: (1) whether the best man was available from all over India irrespective of seniority; and (2) whether the man was found to be of unimpeachable character and integrity?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** I do not understand how this question arises.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How does this arise?

**Shri Algu Raj Shastri:** It is a mere lecture.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** When a question about the Auditor-General comes, then everything relating to the Auditor-General is asked; when a question about tobacco comes, then everything about tobacco is asked.

**Shri S. N. Das:** In view of the fact that in the departmental report for 1952-53 it was stated that a draft Bill was ready and final touches were being given to it, may I know the reason why there is so much delay in this matter? Have any suggestions from the Comptroller and Auditor-General been received with regard to this Bill?

**Shri M. C. Shah:** No. Suggestions from the Auditor-General have not been received as yet. It was stated in reply to my friend, Mr. Das's question earlier that there were two officers working on that. They are discussing all these questions with the Auditor-General and we expect that their report after discussion with the Auditor-General will be received soon.

बाढ़ों में रेल के स्लीपरों का बह जाना

\*१३६८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या गृह-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि १६ फरवरी, १९५४ को जम्मू से २० मील दूर अखनूर के समीप चनाब नदी में बाढ़ आ जाने के कारण लकड़ी के एक लाख स्लीपर बह कर पाकिस्तान की सीमा में चले गए ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन्हें प्राप्त करने का कोई प्रयत्न किया गया ; तथा

(ग) यदि हां, तो पाकिस्तान से कितने स्लीपर प्राप्त हुए ?

**The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju):** (a) A tally of the timber scantlings left behind on our side of the river is still in progress and the exact extent of the loss will