

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : No.

Shri C. D. Pande : May I request that Question No. 1989 may be answered? It is an important question.

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

TELCO LOCOMOTIVES

***1989. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of a Telco engine in relation to the landed cost of a similar engine, the cost of a Chittaranjan engine and the landed cost of a similar engine ;

(b) whether Telcos have shown any progressive reduction in the price as compared to Chittaranjan and if so in what proportion ;

(c) if Telco engines are costlier than the landed cost of similar engines, how much in excess have the Government paid to the Telcos since the agreement was entered into ; and

(d) if the Telcos have not shown any progress whether there is any proposal to take it over to the public sector?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 55.]

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(c) Approximately an additional amount of Rs. 113 lakhs for 66 locomotives was paid by the Government during the "development period" as expenditure on the development of locomotive manufacture in India.

(d) No.

Shri C. D. Pande : In view of the fact that the manufacture by the private enterprise is costing more in this particular case, will Government consider the possibility of expanding the Chittaranjan locomotive works so that it may manufacture more engines at cheaper cost?

Shri Alagesan : The question of the price of TELCO-manufactured locomotives has been referred to the Tariff Commission. They are seized of the matter. We shall have to await the outcome of that inquiry before taking any step in this direction.

Shri Chattopadhyaya : May I know whether the report of the Tariff Commission has been received, and if so, when?

Mr. Speaker : He said we should await the report.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : The question of locomotive prices was referred to the Tariff Commission as long as 9 months ago. Could we know the reason for the delay in the submission of the report?

Shri Alagesan : They had to obtain the services of an expert who was not easily available, to deal with this matter. Now I think an expert from UK is available or visible. As soon as he takes charge, they will be able to see through the inquiry.

Shri C. D. Pande : In view of the fact that Government themselves are manufacturing engines, there is no question of referring this question to Tariff Commission, because Government have the data at their disposal and comparison is very easy.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member has given an answer.

Shri Alagesan : We are manufacturing in the Chittaranjan Works broad gauge locomotives. The TELCO are manufacturing metre gauge locomotives. So it is better that this question be decided by an impartial tribunal.

Short Notice Question and Answer STRIKE BY SEAMEN ON WEST COAST

S. N. Q. No. 16. Shri M. D. Joshi : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees in the canteens on coastal steamers of the B. S. N. Co. Ltd., the crew on

fighters in different ports and the crew on steamers of the B.S.N. Co. Ltd., have gone on strike because their demands have not been granted ;

(b) the total number of workers on strike ;

(c) whether the steamer service between Bombay and the coastal ports on the West Coast has been stopped for over a week ;

(d) whether thousands of passengers are detained at different ports as a result of the stoppage of steamer service and have been prevented from carrying on their usual avocation and joining their duties ;

(e) whether the mango trade of the Konkan has been severely hit and loss of lakhs of rupees has resulted owing to stoppage of steamer service ; and

(f) the steps Government have taken in respect of (i) the resumption of steamer service and (ii) satisfying the demands of the workers who have struck work?

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

(b) 882.

(c) Yes, Sir. The steamer service had to be suspended from the 24th April, 1956.

(d) It is understood that usually some 3,000 passengers travel daily by the B.S.N. Company's steamers and that as a result of the suspension of this service this passenger traffic has been affected. It is, however, understood that the Bombay State Transport has put in some additional buses to relieve the situation.

(e) It is true that the mango trade of the Konkan has been affected. It has not however been possible to ascertain the extent of the losses sustained by the mango trade due to the stoppage of the steamer service.

(f) Discussions are proceeding between the Jahaji Mazdoor Union, Bombay, and the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. and the Director General of Shipping is keeping in touch with both parties with a view to bringing about an amicable settlement.

Shri M. D. Joshi : Is it a fact that the Seamen Employees' Union had asked for arbitration by Government with regard to this dispute?

Shri Alagesan : There are certain talks going on between the leaders of the Union and the Company. As I said, the good offices of the Director-General of Shipping will be used when he is approached to help in this matter. The talks are going on and it is at that stage. I am not able to say whether they are going to have arbitration in this regard.

Shri M. D. Joshi : Is it a fact that about 400 employees who have struck work have been arrested and the situation is deteriorating everyday?

Shri Alagesan : Yes, I have information here that 480 people have been arrested. I do not know the conditions under which they were arrested. Perhaps it may be due to the fact that they stayed on after they were discharged ; may be, technically, it was considered trespass—I am not able to say.

Shri Kajrolkar : Has Government's attention been drawn to threats of sympathetic strike by thousands of dock workers? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to prevent further strikes?

Shri Alagesan : I answered that.

Mr. Speaker : He asks, what steps have been proposed to prevent further strikes.

Shri Alagesan : We hope this will be settled. I do not envisage a further strike by anybody.

Shri Asoka Mehta : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the strike notices served on six other shipping companies and the possibility of the strike extending to all the shipping lines, and the entire coastal shipping being suspended in the near future?

Shri Alagesan : These are all passenger services operating on the Konkan coast and also on the Saurashtra and Cutch coast. I am not aware whether strike notices have been served on other companies as well.

Shri Asoka Mehta : Will Government make enquiries to find out if there is any possibility of the strike being extended in the near future? If there is such a possibility will Government take active steps to see that this strike is brought to an amicable settlement?

Shri Alagesan : Surely, we will make enquiries in this regard. As I said, the good offices of the DG will be available in bringing this matter to an amicable settlement.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know what are the demands over which this situation has developed?

Shri Alagesan : There are a number of items like increase in wages, grant of gratuity, grant of bonus and so on and so forth. But I am told the main demand of the workers is grant of bonus.

Shri Bansal : May I know whether all the stages of legal conciliation and arbitration were undergone before the strike was started, that is to say, whether the strike is legal or illegal?

Shri Alagesan : I do not think I can say anything on that matter. Evidently, this has been under correspondence between the Union and the Shipping Company concerned. My information is that as far back as October last, the Union had made known its demand to the Shipping Company. So it cannot be considered as having come upon the Company suddenly.

Shri M. D. Joshi : Are Government aware that very great discontent prevails as regards the callous attitude of the Company both towards passengers and towards their employees?

Shri Alagesan : The hon. Member has been very vigorously voicing that view in this House.

be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Lady Doctor at Ghaziabad and Meerut for the families of the Railwaymen of these places ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to provide a Lady Doctor to the families of Railwaymen at those places ; and

(d) if so, when it will be done?

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

(b) A nurse dai is already provided at Ghaziabad to conduct confinement cases in the railway colony. The number of railway employees at Meerut is not large enough to justify provision of a lady doctor.

(c) and (d). The number of railway employees stationed at Meerut and Ghaziabad does not justify stationing of a Lady Doctor, but a Child Welfare & Maternity Centre with a lady Health Visitor, is being provided for during the current year at Meerut, and later in the Five Year Plan at Ghaziabad.

RECRUITMENT OF ANGLO-INDIANS IN RAILWAYS

***1974. Shri Frank Anthony :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts, reserved for the Anglo-Indian Community which were advertised by the Railway Service Commission, Madras during the year 1955 ;

(b) the number of Anglo-Indian applicants for these posts ;

(c) the number of Anglo-Indians called for interview in respect of these posts ; and

(d) the number of Anglo-Indians selected for these posts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) 191.

(b) 675.

(c) 305.

(d) 191.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE FOR RAILWAY-MEN'S FAMILIES

***1973. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shaf-fee :** Will the Minister of Railways