

A copy is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix XV, annexure No. 4].

Shri Kamath : I find from the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha that no cases of subletting were detected on the Central and South-Eastern Railways. The information given is nil. Am I to understand that no complaints of any subletting, particularly in the Central Railway with which I am acquainted, were received by the Ministry or by the Railway Board?

Shri L. B. Shastri : No complaint has been received by the Railway Board.

Shri Kamath : Have the contractors whose contracts have been terminated on account of their subletting, been blacklisted for future contracts?

Shri L. B. Shastri : I cannot say definitely, but I do not think they will be given fresh contracts.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*2583. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether any resolution passed by the Assam Assembly requesting the Union Government to accept the recommendations of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee on freight and price equalisation of motor spirit has been received from the Government of Assam; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know why the recommendations of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee on the freight and price equalisation of motor spirit have not been given effect to?

Shri L. B. Shastri : This matter was considered by the Transport Advisory Council on which all the States are represented. The Transport Ministers of the States are Members of the Transport Advisory Council. They had said that before taking final action we should await the report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, and the Taxation Enquiry Commission has not agreed with the views of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee. Hence we do not propose to take action as suggested by the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : Is it because that in that case the price of motor spirit in Assam would be reduced?

Shri L. B. Shastri : I am informed that this matter of reduction in the price of petrol in Assam was taken up by the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry, and they were able to secure a reduction of 2½ annas per gallon. If the Assam Government desires further consideration of this matter, they should perhaps take it up with the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : Is it not a fact that the price of motor spirit in Assam is the highest in spite of its being the producing State?

Shri L. B. Shastri : The fact may or may not be so, but I said if the hon. Member or if the Assam Government desire that the matter should be considered further over the reduction already made, they should take it up with the Ministry concerned.

Mr. Speaker : Shri Velayudhan.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know on what consideration.....

Mr. Speaker : I have called Shri Velayudhan.

Shri Velayudhan : Is there any proposal before the Taxation Enquiry Commission to equalise or bring about a uniform rate for motor vehicles all over India?

Shri L. B. Shastri : There was a proposal, but it was not agreed to by the Taxation Enquiry Commission. They have not agreed with that view.

Shri Velayudhan : Why ?

स्टेशन मास्टर्स के काम के घंटे

*२५८४. श्री अमर सिंह डामर : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे के कुछ महाखण्डों में स्टेशन मास्टर्स को केवल बारह घंटे काम करना पड़ता है और उनको यातायात तथा वाणिज्यिक कार्य एक साथ नहीं करने पड़ते जब कि कुछ महाखण्डों के स्टेशनों पर स्टेशन मास्टर्स को दोनों तरह के काम करने पड़ते हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : (क) तथा (ख). काम के घंटे और उसकी किस्म नियत करते समय यह देखा जाता है कि अमुक स्टेशन कितना बड़ा है और उसकी विशेषता क्या है। अगर परिवहन (transportation) का काम ज्यादा है, तो वाणिज्य के काम (commercial work) के लिए सहायक दिया जाता है और स्टेशन मास्टर पर केवल आम देखभाल की जिम्मेदारी रहती है। छोटे स्टेशनों पर दोनों तरह के काम अकेला स्टेशन मास्टर कर सकता है।

* श्री अमर सिंह डामर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि कौन कौन से स्थानों के स्टेशन मास्टर्स से यातायात और वाणिज्य दोनों का काम लिया जाता है ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : मैं सब स्टेशनों के नाम तो नहीं ले सकता, लेकिन जैसा मैंने कहा, जो बड़े स्टेशन हैं, जहाँ कि दोनों काम मिल कर बहुत ज्यादा हो जाते हैं, उन स्टेशनों पर अलग अलग सहायक स्टेशन मास्टर्स को यह काम दिये जाते हैं।

Shri Nambiar : May I know whether it has not been brought to the notice of Government and have they been requested to see that all the station

masters whether at big or small stations are given eight hours duty in view of the fact that the nature and responsibility of their duty is so high?

Shri L. B. Shastri : The hon. Member, I think, is quite aware of the fact that the station masters have been classified into three categories—intensive, continuous and essentially intermittent. It is continuous if the workload is about six hours in an eight hour shift and intermittent if in a twelve hour shift the period of inaction aggregates six hours or more. So, actually the work that the station masters have to do is not exactly 12 hours. They get an aggregate of six hours or more of rest, the period of inaction being about six hours or more. Hence on small stations it is not considered necessary to put them in the same category as the station masters who have to work at the bigger stations.

Shri Nambiar : May I know if the Government is aware of the I.L.O. convention which makes it incumbent on the Government of India, which is a participating country, that station masters must be given only eight hours duty.

Shri L. B. Shastri : The conditions in different countries are different and we have to act according to the conditions that prevail in our country. If a station master who has got to perform 12 hours duty gets a period of six hours as period of inaction, it means he has to work only for six hours. I personally think that we should advise our staff to work hard and in the present context there is no way out except to do as much work as possible for every one whether he is a station master or he is working anywhere else. But still, in spite of what I have said, sufficient period of rest has been provided for the station masters where they have to perform duty for 12 hours, eight hours or six hours.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether there is continuous work for 12 hours or not? Is not the station