

Assam Rail Link

*2122. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 465 on 30th July, 1956 and state :

(a) whether the Assam Rail Link Stabilization Committee has completed its investigations; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know the probable date when this Committee would complete its investigations?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri) : It is difficult to give any exact time. It is in the midst of its work, and it should be given enough time to complete its task.

Shri K. P. Tripathi : May I know if it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has made a suggestion that the railway should be taken southwards by crossing the Teesta, all the way below the river so that the river system is avoided? If so, is it under consideration?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : A number of alternative suggestions have been made. They will be considered when this Committee has submitted its report. They will be considered by the Railway Board.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know whether the Government of Assam has suggested the doubling of link line?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : All that may have to be decided after this Committee has submitted its report, because it has to give its opinion whether the line should be stabilised.

Tour of 'Fashion Experts'

*2123. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tour of 'fashion experts' from Britain has been sponsored by the Government of India;

(b) if so, its object; and

(c) the places visited by this team in India and the amount spent over the tour?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) : (a) Yes, by

Government of India and Air India International jointly.

(b) To gather material for a Special Supplement on India to be brought out by the Vogue Magazine in November this year.

(c) Bombay, Bangalore, Mysore, Madras, Mahabalipuram, Delhi, Sriragar, Agra, Jaipur, Ajanta and Ellora. Information regarding the exact amount spent over the tour has not yet been received from the various tourist offices through whom the expenditure was incurred. It is, however, expected to be about Rs. 8,000.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav : May I know whether these experts are going to submit any report to the Government?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : No, they are not expected to submit any report to the Government. They are representatives of a very famous fashion magazine in England. They are bringing out a 20-page supplement on places of tourist interest in India. We hope that by that the tourist trade in India would receive a fillip.

Shri H. G. Vaishnav : May I know whether these fashion experts would help in any way to encourage Indian fashions?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri) : It has nothing to do with fashion, whether it is Indian fashion or foreign fashion, western fashion or eastern fashion. These people came here. They publish a high-class magazine with a large circulation, and perhaps they will come out with a number of articles on India and it will help our tourist traffic.

Shri G. S. Singh : May I know whether these fashion experts held some sort of exhibition in Delhi, and if so, whether it was boycotted by the Press of Delhi? If so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : A reception was held at the Imperial Hotel in honour of this delegation, and it was sponsored by the Handicrafts Board. The Tourist Bureau of the Ministry of Transport participated and shared the expenses.

Shri G. S. Singh : Was it boycotted by the Press of Delhi, and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : The Press is not invited to all the parties.

Shri G. S. Singh : It is supposed to be of tourist interest.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : The hon. Minister has stated that money is being spent on the tour of these fashion experts

because they will perhaps bring out a supplement on India in their fashion magazine. I want to know how much this 'perhaps' has a chance of being a reality. And even if it becomes a reality, what do the Government of India hope to gain by it ?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan : I am sorry if I had given a reply which has rather cast any doubt about the publication of this supplement. In fact, all the arrangements have been finalised. They are going to bring out a 20-page supplement. I would like to inform the hon. House that for a supplement of 10 pages to be published in this magazine, the cost would be something like Rs. 80,000. They are bringing out a supplement of 20 pages, and the total amount that is going to be spent by the Transport Ministry is only Rs. 8,000. I think we are going to have very good publicity by this.

श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति झाह : ये एक्सपर्ट अलमोड़ा, नैनीताल और गढ़वाल क्यों नहीं भेजे गये ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : शायद आप ने उनको बुलाया नहीं ।

Shri Veeraswamy : May I know the reason why these experts are called 'fashion experts' and whether they are also expected to give lessons to the people with regard to the different types of fashion in the world.

Mr. Speaker : He has already answered it. This is not for the purpose of giving lessons on fashion here.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

Searches for smuggled Goods

S.N.Q. 24. { **Shri N. R. Muniswamy :**
Shri U. M. Trivedi :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that several Marwari and Gujarati families' houses in Calcutta have been searched during the month of August, 1956 by the Customs Department ;

(b) whether it is a fact that large quantities of ornaments were seized from the members of those families ;

(c) whether it is a fact that ladies of the family were also thoroughly searched ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that, in most cases, the jewellery seized returned within 24 hours ; and

(e) if so, whether Government will investigate the grounds for such searches and take necessary steps to prevent the abuse of such powers vested in the Authority ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Deputy Minister, Dr. Shrimali, asked me this morning that as he has got some work in the Rajya Sabha simultaneously his question may be taken up first. I am sorry I called the other question.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha) : I have also got some work in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Ministers will adjust between themselves. I will allow this question to stand over and let Dr. Shrimali's question be taken up first. The next question may now be put.

Demonstration by Aligarh University Students

S.N.Q. 25. { **Shri Dabhi :**
Shri V. G. Deshpande :

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the students and professors of the Aligarh University took out an effigy of the Governor of U. P. and a copy of the Gita in a procession and burnt them both after beating them with shoes ; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto ?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali) : (a) Demonstrations were held by the students of the University in connection with the publication of the book entitled "Living Biographies of Religious Leaders". It is not, however, true that any University teachers participated in it. The procession taken out by the students on 31st August took out an effigy of the Governor of U. P. and shouted slogans of disapproval and condemnation regarding the book, its publishers and Editors. It is not true that a copy of the Gita was taken in procession and either beaten with shoes or burnt.

(b) Government deprecate all evidences of improper and ill disciplined behaviour on the part of students and consequently deplore the incidents. An enquiry is being conducted by the University authorities into these happenings and they will take appropriate action, to stop their recurrence.

Shri Dabhi : May I know whether it is a fact that various other indecent and undesirable incidents also took place in the University area in connection with this agitation and whether in view of the serious