

Shri Matthen: What about replacement? Am I correct in assuming that including replacement of 90,000 tons the shortfall will be about 2,20,000 tons?

Shri Alagesan: If replacement is taken into account, the shortfall is likely to be more; but I cannot be precise about it.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): ...will perhaps be 2 lakh tons.

Shri Joachim Alva: In reply to a question put by me to the Minister of Finance during the last Budget debate regarding assistance from the World Bank for inland transport and aerial transport, the hon. Minister said—I speak subject to correction—that funds would be available. May I know whether the Transport Ministry have drawn up any plan by which they could utilise the funds that might be made available from the World Bank?

Shri Alagesan: As it is, it is due to the difficult ways and means position that we have not been able to go ahead, as I said in the answer itself. The question will be reviewed after a year.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In answer to part (c), the hon. Minister said that it is not possible to fix any date. Considering the fact that this modest target was fixed ten years ago, may I enquire how it is that Government are not in a position to tell the House as to when will they be in a position to achieve this target?

Shri Alagesan: This question has been debated in this House several times and all the difficulties have been indicated. Just now, the difficulty is that of foreign exchange and finance.

Shri Matthen: When in 1947, the target of 2.2 million tons was fixed, we were contemplating to cover 50 per cent of the overseas trade and the whole of the coastal trade. In view of the economic development of India after independence, do Government think that this tonnage will be ade-

quate to provide for carriage of 50 per cent of the overseas trade and the whole of the coastal trade?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It shall not be adequate, but, as the Deputy Minister has already stated, the difficulty is of foreign exchange and ways and means position. As soon as that position improves, we will try to expedite and acquire more tonnage.

Tuticorin Express Accident

*62. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the report of the judicial enquiry into the Tuticorin Express accident on the 23rd November, 1956 at Ariyalur;

(b) whether any enquiry has been or is being held into the alleged burning of the women's compartment of the Express train without trying to extricate it from the debris; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) Government have accepted the finding about the cause of the accident. The various matters brought out in the report as also the recommendations made for minimising the incidence of similar accidents in future, are however being examined carefully and necessary action will be taken at an early date.

(b) and (c). A thorough investigation has been made. The allegation is unfounded.

Shri Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, do Government expect to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Report after examination has been completed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Report has already been published.

Shri Kamath: Will it be laid on the Table?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think it necessary; it is already in the Library of the House.

Shri Kamath: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has stated—if I heard him aright—that the allegation is unfounded or baseless. But a couple of days ago, if I remember aright, he said that the matter was being inquired into very thoroughly. I want to know what is the correct position; today he says it is baseless and the other day he said that it would be thoroughly inquired into.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no irreconcilability between the two. That day also I said that so far as the allegation of burning of dead bodies in the coach was concerned, it was unfounded. I reiterate that the allegation that dead bodies were burnt in the coach is unfounded. But certain allegations have been made against the Railway Administration, and the action I should take in the matter of those allegations is being pursued. Appropriate action will be taken in the matter.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister aware—because he left Delhi towards the close of the last session and was not present here during the last few days—that Shri R. Govindan, member of the District Board of Tiruchirapalli, made allegations subsequent to the leaflet published by him, in respect of which he sent me papers—his telegram and his letter—which, with your permission, I laid on the Table of the House? Is he also aware that Shri Govindan offered to give evidence before the court of enquiry, but that he was not allowed to do so?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I said on that occasion, I caused that leaflet to be sent to the court of inquiry. But it was beyond the jurisdiction of the terms of reference of the court of inquiry. As I have said, I am pursuing the question of what further action should be taken in the matter of those allegations.

Shri Kamath: You observed last time when I referred to that leaflet, that the burning of the women's compartment was a very serious matter, and

after that the Minister also agreed with you that it was a very serious matter. He also undertook to inquire into it. Now the Minister says, without any inquiry into it, that it is baseless. May I know whether any inquiry was held into it, and if so, who made the inquiry? Was it the same court of inquiry or a separate departmental inquiry? If not, in what other manner was it inquired into.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Whether any further inquiry will be necessary or not or what action Government should take in respect of these allegations is already under consideration and appropriate action will be taken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The findings of the judicial inquiry were submitted to the Government as long as two months ago. Could we know the reasons for the delay in examination and the taking of expeditious action on the recommendations of the inquiry?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no delay. It is being examined and we will take appropriate action as early as possible. As a matter of fact, some action has already been taken.

Overcrowding on Trains on Tatanagar-Gua Line

*63. **Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is overcrowding of third class passengers in Tatanagar-Gua Branch Line on Tuesday which is the weekly market day of Chaibasa, and that all the foot-boards are occupied by passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons why no steps are taken to stop travelling on foot-boards; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of bogies?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is some overcrowding on this branch on market days at Chaibasa i.e. Tuesdays, and some passengers travel on foot-boards.