

Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee

*128. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply to the supplementary on Starred Question No. 197 on the 20th November, 1956, and state:

(a) whether the Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know when the report is likely to be submitted?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We hope, by the end of next month.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know the reasons for the unusual delay?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is a very big job which has been given to them, and they have to go into the matter very thoroughly.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Government's attention has been directed to the reports that appeared in the press about the draft recommendations made by this committee?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have not yet received the report officially. So, we cannot go by what has appeared in the press.

Shri Nambiar: Has Government's attention been directed to the press reports? If so, have they cared to study them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We would rather wait for the report of the committee itself.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the delay in the submission of the report is due to the fact that the chairman and some members of this committee have got international obligations to discharge?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I will not impute that thing to the delay. This work is a very complicated one, and the job is very big. So, I shall not say that the committee have taken any abnormally long time.

Railway Workers Union

*129. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any Union not affiliated to the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen has since been recognised; and

(b) if so, the name of the Union?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b) The South Eastern Railwaymen's Union and the Western Railway Employees' Union, which were recently granted recognition by the Railway Administrations concerned, are not affiliated to the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Since there has been a revision of the policy in the matter of recognition of unions, may I know at what stage is the consideration of recognition being granted to the Southern Railway Labour Union?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The unions are granted recognition on certain conditions, namely, if they have a certain percentage of the workers as their members and also certain other things which the Administration thinks should be observed by the unions. The question of affiliation does not arise.

Price of Rice in Andhra

*131. **Dr. Kanna Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the price of rice as on the 1st March, 1957 as compared to the price prevailing on the 1st March, 1955 and