

luxury and thereby save some money for the nation?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion for action.

Prices of Telco Locomotives

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 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Nagi Reddy:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri Kunhan:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
 Shri Bagnunath Singh:
 Shri Assar:
 Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 428 on the 19th February, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Arbitrator has since given his award regarding the price of Telco Locomotives for the period commencing from 1st April, 1958, and

(b) if so, the nature of the award given?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In reply to a previous question the hon Deputy Minister gave a categorical assurance that the award will be forthcoming by about the middle of June. May I know the reason for so much delay?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Unfortunately, the arbitrator has not been keeping very good health. I hope he will recover soon.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase Telco engines after the expiry of this agreement? If so, what are the conditions settled for the purchase of these engines?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far, we have not arrived at any agreement.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the arbitrator is paid about Rs. 500 a day and whether he had a heart attack recently and finds it difficult to carry on? Would Government consider appointing somebody else so that the work could be speeded up considering the fact that the agreement with Telco might be coming to an end almost in the beginning of next year?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): We have paid the arbitrator according to the scale laid down for payment to retired High Court Judges who work as arbitrators.

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Scales are laid down for arbitrators drawn from ex-Judges of different High Courts. And he is paid according to that scale.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member does not probably ask that but says that he is paid about Rs 500 a day.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Recently he had an attack of coronary thrombosis, and our latest information is that he has been certified fit by the doctors. He is going to fix a date for the arbitration.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the requirements of steam locomotives manufactured by Telco are sufficient to meet the needs of the Second Plan and if so what steps are being taken to see that the manufacture of 100 locomotives per year which may be required to be converted either into diesel or electric is carried out? Is there any scheme?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That matter is being considered—how to utilise the Telcos after the expiry of the present agreement for the manufacture of steam locomotives.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Have our requirements of meter-gauge steam locomotives been completed, even today?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Today as the position stands, we are in a comfortable position so far as the steam locomotives for the meter-gauge are concerned. But the requirement is a continuing requirement so long as we run these steam locomotives.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether, in view of the delay, the Ministry will be able to place on the Table of the House the price quoted for the locomotives by the Telcos and the price the Government has accepted to pay?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That has been discussed in the House more than once it has been quoted in the House.

Shri S M Banerjee: In reply to a previous question, the hon Deputy Minister stated that two of these locomotives were purchased during the fourth price period and the hon. Minister has stated that whatever be the price that is fixed by the arbitrator, that will be the price for the fourth period. May I know whether any amount has been paid to Telcos for these diesel locomotives upto this time?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think that some payments are being made to be adjusted after the award of the arbitrator has been given.

Shri T. B Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that this question has been going on for a pretty long time, do the Railway Board consider taking over the Telco as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee sometime back?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The present decision of the Railway Board is not to take it during the pendency of the present agreement. *(Interruptions).*

Mr. Speaker: This relates only to prices to be fixed by the arbitrator. That poor man is suffering from some heart disease. He will come back and settle it. We are going into other matters as to what other arrangements are being made, etc.... *(Interruptions).*

Shri Tyagi: It is public money.

Mr. Speaker: Hon Members will confine themselves to the question of prices.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I want to clear one point. Perhaps it is the impression that the arbitrator is being paid Rs 500 per day, it is not correct. He is paid only on the days on which he holds a sitting. It is based on the hours of sitting.

Shri Feroze Gaudhi: The point in dispute which has been referred to the arbitrator is regarding the price which is 375 units according to the Railway Board and 390 according to the Tatas. May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the arbitrator that the cost of the Chittaranjan locomotives—broad-gauge, 170 tons—is about Rs 4,50,000 only?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: All the relevant materials on which the Railway Board objects to the price quoted by the Telcos have been submitted to the arbitrator.

Utilisation of Irrigation Facilities in States

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*205. { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
Shrimati Ila Palchowdhuri:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri A K Gopalan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy
Shri Pahadia:
Shri S. A Mehdi:
Shri S C. Godsora:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 3599 on the 28th April, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Government have since examined the report of the officers appointed by the Central Government to report whether irrigation potential in the country is fully utilised or not; and