

Conference of Railway Officers

1100. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the important subjects considered at the four day Conference of Railway Officers at Delhi during the last week of August, 1956, to chalk out plan to cope with extra Rail-traffic;

(b) the important decisions taken; and

(c) the action taken so far to implement these decisions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) It is presumed that the Member is referring to the meeting with the Operating Heads of Railways held in the Railway Board's Office in August, 1956. At this meeting the different aspects of operating efficiency on the Indian Railways was considered in detail, in the light of results achieved and further steps necessary to improve the transport capacity with a view to bridging the gap between demand and availability of transport, were formulated.

(b) and (c). (i) Loading targets for the ensuing busy season were fixed at 20 per cent over the loading during the previous season.

(ii) Operating performance was reviewed and revised targets were fixed for wagon miles per wagon day, engine miles per engine day and other important operating statistics.

(iii) Quotas for movement *via* important junctions and transhipment points were increased to meet the anticipated increase in traffic.

(iv) Detention to wagons in Marshalling Yards to be reduced drastically.

(v) Reduction in the free time of wagons from 6 hours to 5 hours.

(vi) Special drives to be initiated for improving punctuality of Mail, Express and passenger trains.

Every endeavour is being made to implement the various targets fixed for improving operating efficiency.

Kandla Port

1101. Shri Ram Krishan : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction and development of Kandla port; and

(b) the amount spent on the project so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, annexure No. 57].

(b) The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 14.15 crores. Out of this an amount of Rs. 10.07 crores has been spent so far.

Octroi Post at Dalmia Dadri

1102. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any application has been received from the municipal Committee Charkhi Dadri for permission to establish one octroi post on the Railway premises and requesting that no goods should be delivered without payment of octroi; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The permission as asked for has not been given pending the general examination of the question; meanwhile, permission has been given to authorised staff of the municipal committee to extract whatever information they require from station records so long as this can be done without inconvenience to railway work and without removing the records from the station premises.

Labour Unions

1103. Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that privileges of the recognised labour unions have been curtailed or are being denied in connection with the holding of meetings in the railway premises, and distribution of leaflets and exhibition of notices issued by the Unions in the railway premises;

(b) whether any protest has been lodged by the labour unions against such curtailment of their privileges; and

(c) if so, whether Government is going to restore the privileges so far enjoyed by them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Certain facilities are granted to recognised unions by Government. None of these have either been curtailed or denied.