

रेलवे प्रशासन को १९५८ से ३१ जुलाई, १९५९ तक कितनी छर्ची बचेगा, और

(ख) क्या प्रशासन धाजकल की तरह भविष्य में भी कोयला छर्ची को बचेगा, और

(ग) इम्पिंग स्टेशनों पर एकत्रित कोयला छर्ची को पुषक्-पुषक् नीलाम न करने के प्रशासन को क्या लाभ है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खान):

(क) सूचना मगायी जा रही है और यथासमय मभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

(ख) रेल कर्मचारियों के लिये कोयले की छर्ची उनी तरह बिकती रदगी जैसे धाजकल अगर फालतू छर्ची होगी, तो विशेष परिस्थितियों में उसे नीलाम द्वारा जनता को बेचा जा सकेगा।

(ग) जनता को छर्ची बचने पर जो पाबन्दी है उससे रेलवे की मीमा में कोयले या दूसरे सामान की चोरी की कम गुजाइश रहती है।

Colliery Siding from Ramagundam

2069. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates for the construction of colliery siding - from Ramagundam, Central Railway to Godavari Khan Singareni Collieries Company have since been drawn;

(b) if so, what is the estimated amount; and

(c) when the work on this siding will commence?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Not yet. The proposal is under examination.

(b) The cost of the work has been roughly estimated at Rs. 33 lakhs.

(c) It is not possible at present to specify any date for the commencement of the work as the proposal has not yet been finalized.

Confirmation of Engineers

2070. Shri Ramam: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many class I officers recruited in 1955 in the Engineering Department on the Railways have not yet been confirmed;

(b) the reasons for not confirming those who have put in more than 3 years service; and

(c) whether any rules have been laid down for their confirmation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Eight in all the Engineering Services.

(b) Failure to pass all the prescribed tests in three cases and due to a Special Police Establishment investigation in one case. In the remaining four cases, the question of confirmation is under examination and orders will issue shortly.

(c) Yes

Train Collision Averted

2071. Shri Chuni Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a possibility of collision between Jodhpur Mail and 204 Down Delhi Express between Delhi and Sarai Rohilla Stations on the 18th August, 1959 when the latter train went on the wrong line;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the collision was averted by the timely warning given by puffing the chain by a gateman who jumped into the running train;

(c) if so, the details of the incident;

(d) what action is being taken against the persons who were at fault; and

(e) what appreciation is being shown to the gateman who averted the collision?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) On 18th August, 1950 at about 19-20 hours 204 Down Delhi Express, while starting from Delhi Sarai Rohilla station, entered wrongly on the track which was to be used later by 93 Up Jodhpur Mail scheduled to leave Delhi at 19-30 hours. There was however no possibility of any accident as a result thereof as electrical devices already provided would not have permitted lowering of the signals for the movement of 93 Up Mail on the line occupied by 204 Down Express. Instructions were, however, given to Delhi station not to start 93 Up Mail and the Train had not left that station. 204 Down was stopped by the train Guard. A passenger also pulled the chain on hearing the shouts from the gateman.

(d) and (e) An Assistant Officers' Committee is investigating this incident. Necessary action against the staff held to blame as also, the staff who deserve reward will be considered by the Railway Administration after examining the Enquiry Report.

12.01 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT—
Contd

RESIGNATION OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta East) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I wish to apologize for my absence from the House yesterday. I was anxious to be here because of a number of adjournment motions on a subject which had naturally aroused much interest, but as the House knows, I had to go to Palam just at

that time to meet the President of Pakistan. I sent a request to you to be good enough to take up these adjournment motions a day later, that is, today. I wished particularly to deal with these matters myself and so I requested the Defence Minister not to deal with them. I am grateful to you and to the House for postponing consideration yesterday and for giving me this opportunity today.

I can well understand the concern of this House as well as of others about the news that was published yesterday concerning the resignation of the Chief Staff of the Army. That was, particularly in the circumstances existing today, a serious matter. But an element of sensationalism has been given in the newspapers and much has been said there that is not true. I shall endeavour to give an account of the facts as they came to my knowledge.

I have been interested in the Defence Ministry throughout my period of office. For brief periods, I have held the defence portfolio. Even otherwise, I have kept myself in touch with its activities not only through the Defence Committee of the Cabinet but also on the personal level. From time to time, I have met the Chiefs of Staff and whenever possible I have taken the opportunity to visit some defence establishments.

About a week ago, I sent for Gen. Thimavaya in the normal course in order to have a talk with him. When he came to see me I said to him that I had heard that there was some discontent about recent promotions in the army. He gave me an account of what had been done. I shall refer to this later. I was satisfied that these promotions had been made in the regular course through Selection Boards and there was no element of partisanship or favouritism in them. I say this because I find that some reference was made yesterday in the House to political considerations influencing promotions. I think that there is no truth in that charge.