

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2779
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
PURCHASE OF WOODEN SLEEPER
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a contractor supplied 14390 wooden sleepers (2000 cums) between May 1989 and January 1990 valuing Rs.95 lakh and taken away the full payment thereof based on certificates issued by sleeper passing officers of South Eastern railway;
- (b) whether the vigilance wing and executive engineer (track) of south eastern railway in August/November 1990 found the sleepers of rejectable variety;
- (c) if so, whether departmental action has been taken against the sleeper passing officers, but no action has been taken against the supplier, who in connivance with railway officials, supplied poor quality of Malaysian wooden sleepers except banning business with the firm for three years; and
- (d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken/have taken to deal firmly with errant suppliers and railway employees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

- (a) M/s B.N. Padia were awarded a contract by Railway Board in 1987 for supply of 14390 Nos (2000 cums) of imported Malaysian Balau Wooden Spl. Sleepers. As per contract conditions, 100% payment for 13,305 Nos (1854 cums) amounting to Rs.95.07 Lakh was released against Post Inspection certificate issued by Sleeper passing Officer of S.E. Railway. An amount of Rs.7,39,382 and Security Deposit of Rs.one lac, deducted earlier from running bills, is still lying with the Railways for final clearance.
- (b) During May 1990, S.E. Railway Vigilance Wing seized 8367 Nos of Wooden sleepers out of 14390 Nos of sleepers. Thereafter, a joint inspection was carried out in three different spells, where 1435 nos. of wooden sleepers were rejected by Vigilance. An amount of Rs.8,39,382/- available with Railway was retained by Railway for recovery against rejected sleepers.
- (c) Concerned Sleeper Passing Officer and Staff involved have been charge-sheeted and appropriate disciplinary action taken against them.
- (d) Regarding action against M/s B.N. Padia the case was investigated by the Zonal Railway Vigilance and, based on the recommendations of the vigilance, the firm was black-listed for indulging in malpractices, and the concerned Railway officials were taken up under DAR.