

(ग) जी हों। वे प्रादेश बाध में रूक कर दिये गये थे।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रादेश (ख) में उचित पदोन्नति प्रादेश जारी होने के कुछ दिन बाद मांग्यता प्राप्त यूनियन के साथ एक बैठक हुई थी और यह निश्चय किया गया था कि पकोन्नति की यूनिट को पूर्व व्याप्ति सहित 1-10-1953 से लखनऊ-फतेहगढ़ से बदलकर गोडा-फतेहगढ़ कर दिया जाये। तबनुसार, जि (तीन व्यक्तियों को लखनऊ-फतेहगढ़ की मिली-जुड़ी बरिष्ठता के आधार पर पहले पदोन्नत किया गया था, उन की पकोन्नति के प्रादेश रूक कर दिये गये। अगला दिन प्राप्त होने पर इ मामलों पर पुनर्विचार किया गया और रियायत के रूप में फतेहगढ़ के संबंधित कर्मचारियों को उस तारोख से बरिष्ठता का लाभ दे दिया गया है, जिस तारोख से कि उन्हें लखनऊ-फतेहगढ़ यूनिट में पदोन्नत करने का मूल प्रादेश दिया गया था।

Shortage of Covered Wagons

5051. Shri Virendrakumar Shah:
Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an acute shortage of covered wagon availability at Porbandar has caused a serious bottleneck in the movement of cement, soda-ash, chemicals, cotton and oil seeds;

(b) if so, the average daily requirement of these wagons there and the shortage in availability; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (c). As wagons have to be supplied in preference for clearing heavy demands of high priority traffic like imported foodgrains and fertilisers, cement, salt, etc on the Metre Gauge system of Western Railway, it has not been possible to meet in full the demands of other

traffic offering from Porbandar and moving in a lower priority. The position has been aggravated by the fact, that with the advent of monsoon, commodities normally moving in open wagons also require covered wagons for their clearance. Further, with the onset of monsoon, the Western Railway is required to shoulder the extra burden of moving traffic planned to be transported via Porbandar Port since the arrangements for improving this Port as an all-weather Port have not yet been completed. This extra traffic has not been planned for movement by rail.

Notwithstanding the above limitations, every effort is made to carry the traffic offered at Porbandar to the maximum extent possible. For instance, during the period 1st January to 30th June 1957 a total of 8,186 metre gauge wagons consisting, inter-alia, of cotton, chemicals, cement were loaded from Porbandar as compared to 3,790 wagons during the corresponding period of last year.

12.21 hrs.

RE STATEMENT ON CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE OF 6TH July 1957

(Query)

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्ता (दिल्ली सदर)
अध्यक्ष महोदय कल एक काल-स्टेन्शन मोशन खरम नही हो पाया था कि हाउस एडजर्न हो गया क्योंकि हाउस में कोरम नहीं था। उस में जो लोग सवाल नहीं पूछ पाये हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Not now, some notice must be given. I cannot fix it up now itself.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: There was no quorum.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider it.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: The Members could not ask questions.

हुम को बीका दिया जाने ताकि हुम सवाल पूछ सकें।

Mr. Speaker: I will consider it separately. Shri S. S. Kothari.

बी कंबर लाल गुप्त : क्या आप उसके लिए समय निर्धारित करेंगे ?

Mr. Speaker: You should write to me; I cannot allow anything on the spot, right now.

बी कंबर लाल गुप्त : भ्रम्यक्त म दीव्य, जो एजेण्डा बाकी बचा हुआ है उस को इस एजेण्डे में लाना होगा।

Mr. Speaker: You must write to me first; you cannot raise it like this.

12-22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF GOVERNMENT TO
DECONTROL COAL

Shri S. S. Kothari (Mandsaur): I call the attention of the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported decision of the Government to decontrol Coal."

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, before the Minister makes a statement, I have a submission to make.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a point of order?

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirappalli): It is a point of order in the form of a submission.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My point of order is this. We have developed a convention in the House that when-

ever any important decision is taken by the Government, either to increase the price of sugar or to decontrol coal or cement or whatever it is, it is first announced in the House. This is the second time....

Mr. Speaker: I agree with you that important decisions must be announced on the floor of the House. What has that got to do with this? You can raise it separately.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This news appeared in the press yesterday. I am happy that the Members are so alert that they have taken notice of it and they have given a Call Attention notice. When the sugar price was increased, this Parliament was treated with contempt ... (Interruption). You should ask them not to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Not now; I cannot direct them off-hand just now.

Shri Nambiar: Unless it is leaked out it cannot go in the press.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): Control on the prices and distribution of coal was introduced for the first time in 1944 and 1945 respectively. The controls on coals have been reviewed by Government from time to time. The first step towards decontrol was taken in 1959, when Government notified the price of Grades III-A and III-B non-coking coals of Bengal-Bihar as "ceiling" prices instead of "fixed" prices. "Ceiling" prices were introduced for hard coke in April 1960. In 1962, the prices of Grade II non-coking and Grade HH coking coals were also declared as "ceiling" prices.

Partial relaxation of distribution control was effected in 1964, when consumers were allowed to take Grade II and III of non-coking and ungraded coals of Singareni as well as soft coals subject only to the restrictions of rationalised transport.

In 1966, the prices and distribution of hard coke were also decontrolled.

During the last 10 years, coal prices have been increased on various