

companies merge with each other and become viable. I would like to know whether any steps are being taken by the Shipping Ministry to call for a meeting of companies and assess their viability, and help them in merging. That is what I want to ask the Minister for Shipping.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As far as we are concerned, the question of merger has to be decided by the companies themselves.

SHRI R. RAMAMURTHY : It is the freedom of the companies to merge. I am not asking you to interfere into their freedom. At least the Ministry can advise them because in worldwide the companies are facing recession. They can be advised and sometimes you can even put pressure also to make them viable.

MR. SPEAKER : Uncalled for advice is seldom heeded.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : As far as we are concerned, how can we advise them for just managing their own companies? It is for them to decide whether it is viable.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : The hon. Minister has said in the statement that the decision is pending before the Government with regard to the merger. And in his subsequent answer he said that it was a voluntary act between two companies. What is the decision pending before the Government for merger?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : The question of merger as such is not before the Government. It is the broader question of re-structuring of these shipping companies which is being looked into by the Ministry including some of the general suggestions which have come for merging these shipping companies.

Loading of N-type Box Wagons to full capacity

*779. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State :

(a) whether N-type Box Wagons are made with a capacity of 54 tonnes or so :

(b) if so, whether on an average these wagons are not loaded with more than 48 to 50 tonnes of coal ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not loading the wagons to their full capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) BOX'N' Wagons are made with a marked carrying capacity of about 58.0 tonnes.

(b) No, Sir. Loading of coal is done by the collieries. In some collieries BOX'N' Wagons are being loaded upto the marked carrying capacity but in some others, loading is less than the marked carrying capacity.

(c) The reasons for certain collieries for sometimes not loading the BOX'N' Wagons to their full carrying capacity is that they face difficulties in loading when the coal is of a low density.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : It is well known that there is a shortage of wagons and again there is a shortage of coal to the points where it is supplied. Therefore, I would like to know : what is the percentage of total wagons loaded at around 50 tonnes capacity instead of 58 tonnes capacity? For that does the consignee pay less freight and less for the coal because he is getting less supply?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There are four varieties of coalwashed coal, middling coal, slack coal and steam coal. The maximum quantity of coal moved is in the category of slack coal and steam coal. Because of the number of complaints received a number of joint loadability operations were carried out it has been decided that actually no wagons be charged at 58.0 tonnes which is the marked carrying capacity of BOX'N' wagons. The slack

coal is charged at 55 tonnes and steam coal at 54 tonnes. And 80 per cent of all coal carried generally comes under these two categories.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : For filling less than the optimum capacity does the consignee pay less freight because he gets less coal? Does he pay less for the coal also?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have already answered that the consignee pays for 55 tonnes in one category and 54 tonnes in the other category.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is our experience that vegetables are pretty well loaded and there is shortage of wagons. In view of that fact and also because of the fact that our wagon industry in West Bengal is suffering badly, is the Railway Ministry thinking of improving the position of wagons by increasing the order with the wagon industry?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, this question does not strictly come within the purview of this particular question.

MR. SPEAKER : Because she is a housewife.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : But it is under the active consideration of the Government.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a representation made to the Railway Ministry with regard to allocation of more funds for construction of wagons, especially with regard to three or four companies of West Bengal, namely, M/S Burn Standard Co. Ltd., M/S Jessop & Co., M/S Braithweight & Co., etc. The orders with them now are only for 5,000 wagons, whereas previously these were for 15,000 wagons. This has resulted in unemployment of number of persons who are working in that industry. It has been brought to the notice of the Railway Ministry that unless some effort is made to give more orders, as was given earlier, these workers will have to be retrenched

from the factories. On the one hand, wagons are not available for the purpose of carrying coal and vegetables, etc. in the country and on the other hand, in view of reduced allocation of funds by the Planning Commission, the Railway Ministry has reduced the wagon orders much less than the orders given in the previous year. It is one-third. Unless immediate steps are taken, nothing can be done. So, I would like to know whether the Ministry has taken note of this?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He had answered this very question a few days back. This very question of shortage of wagons and less orders was answered on the floor of this House.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I would like to know whether the Ministry is thinking in terms of increasing the order and giving higher order.

MR. SPEAKER : That was already answered, Mr. Thomas... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : This is affecting the public sector undertakings also... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This was already answered I told you. This is a very same question. Yes, Mr. Swell.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Sir, this question relates to the loading of coal and there is a lot of illegal practice in the matter of coal. The coal Mafia in the coal belts have now shifted from illegal mining to illegal loading of coal, especially on trucks. Permits are issued to the users, to the buyers but these Mafia seize these permits or take them away from the customers and will themselves undertake the loading of coal. Sometimes superior coal is loaded in place of inferior coal and sometimes more coal is loaded than is allowed in the permit. These trucks are then sent to different destinations according to the desires of the Mafia. I would like to know whether this practice is continuing and whether the Minister is aware of it and, if so, what he is doing about it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Ministry keeps a very strict watch on these alleged malpractices and whenever such reports come to the notice of the Ministry, stringent action is taken. I would be very much obliged to the hon. Member if he could always point out to me whenever such things come to his notice... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, this I think is not fair. The Ministry should be aware of these things. They do not have to wait. The Minister says that it does not happen. If they are not aware of ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have not said that it does not happen. I said whenever such information comes to the notice of the Ministry, stringent action is taken and...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, it is a daily phenomenon in Bihar. Thousands of tonnes of coal is being pilfered. And this is happening everyday ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. SPEAKER : They are seeing to it...
(Interruptions)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : This is happening everyday, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I think they are already doing it...
(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would say that this is a cavalier way of dealing with a question, which I do not expect from a young and a bright Minister like Mr. Scindia.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : If I may answer the hon. Member, I am facing on this particular question, a consistent derailment by hon. Members because they are putting questions which are not relevant to this...*(Interruptions)* If I may complete.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. See how he says irrelevant.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I have never been irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : This relates to the loading of the coal.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say. We shall decide it whether it is irrelevant or not.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I maintain my stand that this particular question put is not totally relevant to this particular question because this question relates to...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : loading of coal.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : If I may continue without being disturbed, this relates to the loading of coal ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : You decide it, Sir...*(Interruptions)* Whether trucks or wagons, this relates to the loading of coal.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you heckle him in the way? Please resume your seat. I can decide it myself. I know what he is saying and what you are saying.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This question relates to the loading capacity of wagons. But, however, in regard to the question which the hon. Member has put, I will still say that a very close watch is kept on reports of such activities; and as Prof. Tiwary has said that these mal-practices are of a continuing phenomena, the close watch and a stringent action taken on behalf of the Ministry is also a continuing phenomena.

I would also like to say that as far as loading of coal is concerned, it is strictly the responsibility of the collieries.

MR. SPEAKER : Collieries?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Yes, Sir.

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSILAL) :** Collieries and
the State Governments.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Let there
be a half-an-hour discussion on this.

MK. SPEAKER : I think Mr. Bansi
Lal told me the other day that they are
taking steps to stop these mal-practices.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Coal is a
very sensitive matter.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what they
are trying to do. Wherever this pheno-
menon of mafia type gangsterism exists, it
has to be curbed, stopped and wiped out
And that is what I think Mr. Bansi Lal
will take care of.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The two
Ministries coal and Railways plus the
State Governments must take coordinat-
ed action because this menace is con-
tinuing for years.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, that is what
they will do.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Please do
not leave out the Ministry of power.
(*Interruptions*)

Fly-over Bridge at Borivalee, Bombay

*782. **SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH :**
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal
to construct a fly-over bridge at Bori-
valee, Bombay (near Daulat Nagar) as
the people are feeling great difficulty and
have to wait for a long time to cross the
railway line by vehicle; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSILAL) :** (a) No, Sir,

(b) The Railways have not yet
received any firm proposal from the
Bombay Municipal Corporation/State

Government, to construct Road Over
Bridge in replacement of this level
crossing on cost sharing basis as per
extant rules.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon.
Minister how many overbridges are under
construction under the Western Subur-
ban Railway in Bombay and how many
new proposals are there with him in
this regard. If there is no proposal
regarding construction of an over bridge
at the site at Borivalee which I showed
him, then, may I know whether there is
any proposal with him for construction
of an overbridge at some site between
Borivalee and Kandivalli ?

[*English*]

SHRI BANSI LAL : This question
pertains only to Borivalee flyover
bridge. In respect of this particular
level crossing No. 33 E the Bombay
Municipal Corporation has a feeling
that for the approaches, acquisition of
land, which is heavily built upon, will
be difficult and costly. They have indi-
cated that they are presently not in a
position to sponsor this proposal, but
many bridges in the Bombay suburban
areas have been built and the Railway
Ministry, the State Government and
local bodies are holding meetings to go
into this question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : My
specific question is how many bridges
are under construction under the Western
Suburban Railway and how many propo-
sals are there with him.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister
cannot give this information just now.
If you desire, it can be given to you
later.

[*English*]

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : My
last supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you
mean by last supplementary ? There are