

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** To some extent, it is true that there is shortage. Particularly, this year we had a lot of burden on the Railways for the movement of coal, for the movement of foodgrains, petroleum products and so on and so forth. It is our endeavour to build up the capacity of the wagons.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA:** In view of the fact that there is great demand for these famous Chittour mangoes in Bombay and also in Delhi, would Government consider the advisability of providing cold storage wagons so that they can stand the wear and tear and there is a greater market.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHUBEY:** Is Government aware that a large number of wagons are detained in various areas and the materials are not cleared by many merchants in Shalimar, Howrah and other places? Is this the reason for shortage of wagons? What step is Government taking so that wagons are cleared in time?

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** This question does not arise out of the question before the House. However, it is our endeavour to see that no wagons are allowed to be kept by anybody at any points. We are always having vigilance so that there should not be any detention of wagons. Heavy penalties are being imposed. I do not think there is any such instance at present.

### **Reduction in Strength of Gangmen**

\*573. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 12½ per cent strength of the gangmen have been reduced, 10 per cent kept vacant since last year and further 10 per cent ordered to be reduced; and

(b) if so, reasons for such drastic curtailment of staff reducing the employment opportunity of the poorest section of the labourers in

these days of serious employment crisis?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):** (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI A. K. ROY:** In the midst of all round retrenchment of the gangmen it is a pleasure to hear 'No Sir'. Gangmen come from a very poor strata of society. Generally they come from the villages and mostly they are harijans and adivasies. They work also in a most wretched condition in sun and rain and there is no scope for any amenities for them—no quarters and no water. There is no scope for promotions and upgradations. Not only that. In the last Government, after a great movement, we have been able to give them the Central Pay Commission scales and project rate. On the contrary, when we have given them the rate, we have to face this retrenchment. Though they may not be admitting it on paper, we are seeing all-round curtailment of strength of gangmen at the different places as a result of mechanisation of tracks, replacement of wooden sleeper by concrete or steel sleeper, use of machines, etc. In view of that may I know the number of gangmen in the employment of railways in the last two years, the number retired and number newly recruited in their place?

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** I am sorry to say that the hon. member has not been able to appreciate the reply. Railway is one of the biggest public sector undertakings with a large employment potential. The main objective of the railway is to provide employment, not to retrench anybody. There is no case of retrenchment anywhere. In spite of the modernisation efforts, even where there is a possibility of reduction of labour, the labour engaged has been used elsewhere. There is absolutely no question of any retrenchment of gangmen.

**MR. SPEAKER:** He wanted to know the comparative reduction in the last two years.

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** There is no reduction. On the contrary, as against the sanctioned strength of 1,53,910 on 31-3-79, this year on 31-3-80 the sanctioned strength is 1,59,565.

**SHRI A. K. ROY:** That is another way of saying it. They are decasualising and giving us the figure. What was the strength of gangmen, how many retired and how many have been recruited? I am not talking of direct retrenchment, but of curtailment. Supposing every year 10,000 gangmen retire, are you recruiting 10,000 gangmen?

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** I said there is no question of retrenchment. Whenever somebody retires, somebody is taken in the resultant vacancy.

**SHRI A. K. ROY:** Within the last two months, 400 casual gangmen were retrenched in Asansol division and they were offering dharna in the presence of the DRM. Are you aware of it? If so, what are you doing to take them back?

**Shri C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** The hon. member is asking about a very specific case. I do not know about it. If there is anything like that, we will enquire into it.

**SHRI A. K. ROY:** Mr. Samar Mukherjee has already raised it in this House.

**SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** The will take note of it and enquire about it.

**श्री रामाबल्लार शास्त्री :** रेलवे में सब से उपेक्षित और शोषित गैंगमैन हैं, और सब से महत्वपूर्ण काम भी वहीं करते हैं। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आज भी बहुत से गैंगमैन बरसों तक काम करने के बावजूद कैजुअल मजदूर की श्रेणी में सबूत रहे हैं, यदि हाँ, तो विभिन्न रेलवे जोनों में उनकी संख्या क्या है? अगर यह

सूचना देने में कठिनाई है, तो पूरी रेलवे में उनकी संख्या क्या है? पंडित जी ने कई दफ्ता कहा है कि वह तमाम कैजुअल लेबरर्स को नियमित करेंगे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कैजुअल गैंगमैन को नियमित करने के सिलसिले में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

**रेल मंत्री (श्री कमलपति त्रिपाठी) :** कैजुअल लेबरर्स की संख्या तो मैं इस समय नहीं बता सकता हूँ। माननीय सदस्य उसके लिए अलग नोटिस दें। मैं इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि हमारे यहां जो कैजुअल लेबरर्स हैं, उनको जल्दी से जल्दी रेगुलराइज करना चाहिए। रेलवे बजट के सम्बन्ध में बात करते हुए मैंने कहा था कि हम उसकी वेष्टा कर रहे हैं। एक तो यह है कि कैजुअल लेबर का फ़रदर रेक्यूटमेंट बन्द कर दिया गया है, ताकि जितने कैजुअल लेबरर्स हैं, उनको रेगुलराइज करने के बाद नया रेक्यूटमेंट हो। वे बरसों तक कैजुअल बने रहते हैं, यह मुनासिब बात नहीं है। एक स्टेप तो यह लिया गया है। दूसरा यह है कि हम यह बराबर रेगुलराइज करते चल रहे हैं और हमने इसका प्रयास किया है कि रेगुलराइजेशन की जो प्रक्रिया चल रही है वह बहुत जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी की जाय और जितना कैजुअल लेबर है जिन के लिए रूल भी बना हुआ है कि चार महीने अगर वह काम कर ले तो फिर वह रेगुलर कर दिया जाय, इस विषय पर हम लोग विचार कर रहे हैं और बहुत शीघ्र ही इस का फैसला कर लेंगे।

### Condition of Indians in Saudi Arabia

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\*574. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:**

**SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 14 June, 1980, wherein it has been stated that Indians are recruited for Menial jobs to sweep the streets, lanes of Riyadh and to collect garbage from house to house;

(b) whether Government propose to bring such Indian nationals back into country and see that the foreign countries do not exploit the poverty stricken Indians; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?