

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** May I know whether the Election Commission depends for the date or the time when a bye-election should take place only on the report sent by the State Government, or, whether there is a mechanism at the Centre, in the Ministry, to ascertain whether there is any possibility or whether there is any failure in holding an election anywhere? What is the criterion?

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN:** The procedure is that the Election Commission acts on the basis of the information supplied by the State Government. In consultation with the State Government, the Election Commission decides.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am sorry this question has taken so much time. We will try to save it on others now.

**Re-organisation of Zonal Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament**

\*687. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made during the course of discussion on the Railway Budget for the re-organisation of Zonal Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament for better consultation and discussion of the problems of the various regions;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to reorganise these Committees on the old pattern i.e., 16 Regional Committees; and

(c) whether any immediate re-organisation of the Zonal Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for Northern Railway is being considered on Divisional basis, especially in view of the fact that the present Committee consists of more than 200 Members of Parliament, and no worthwhile discussion is possible in such a large body?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Government having experimented with Regional Committees during 1970 are of the view that they were not as effective as the present Zonal Committees of M.Ps. This being the position Government are not considering the re-organisation of the Northern Railway Zonal Committee of M.Ps. on Divisional basis. For dealing satisfactorily with Railway Users problems, at present we have also the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees at the Railway Headquarters' level and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees at the Divisional level, in which M.Ps., M.L.As., and other interests are represented.

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR.** In answer to part (c) of the question, the hon. Deputy Minister said that the old committees were not effective. May I know that as Parliament appoints a Committee of 45 Members, as the maximum strength, from both the Houses, here, the railways appoint a committee which has more than 100 members on it? Is it a committee or a mini Parliament, and how is it that any worthwhile discussion is possible when 108 members are seated around and you cannot find any time for one member to speak? I would like to know what is the reason for this, that the old method was regarded as ineffective. How do you regard this committee with more than 100 members to be more effective when they sit for a short interval of two to three hours and hold a discussion?

**SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI:** It does not depend on the strength of the number of committees, but upon the effective functioning of a committee. For instance, we have this procedure, namely, at the divisional level, there is a divisional

railway users' consultative committee. There is a zonal railway users' consultative committee at the zonal level. Then there are nine parliamentary committees for all the zones, of which two meetings are held in a year. Then there is a major consultative committee of which three meetings are held in a year. If we constitute those committees as has been desired by the hon. Member, I think the Minister and the Members will have to sit throughout the year on these committees.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he wants.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Sir, he has not replied to the main question. What is the utility of such a committee when even a committee of both Houses of Parliament, a Joint Committee, has a maximum strength of 45? What is the justification for a committee to have 108 members or more than that? Secondly, does he expect the members to participate? Does he expect the members not to speak? What sort of development does he expect?

MR. SPEAKER: I think that it is quite unusual for such questions to come up. You put a question on the basis of what was discussed in the current budget debate. Now, you are putting supplementaries on the same basis. This is a very unusual procedure that has been followed in this connection. I am sorry I may have to go into that. Otherwise, tomorrow, you may again come up with a question on the basis of the one asked by Shri Patel or any other member.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Sir, this question flows from the answer given. I want to know as to how a Committee of 108 Members can be more effective than the Zonal Committee pattern which the Ministry was following earlier. In answer to another question he referred to the Users' Committee, this Committee

and that Committee. All the M.P.s are not there. In such a Committee with 108 Members, how much time one Member gets in order to present the problems of his region in such a Committee in which 108 Members are present? Would there be sufficient time for the Member to discuss about the development of the area concerned?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: In the Consultative Committee only policy matters are discussed. An agenda is formed and the papers are circulated to all the Members of these Committees. The hon. Member says that a large number of Members are represented on this Committee wherein matters connected with the Member's constituency are taken up.

I say it is very useful to us.

श्रीमती शीला कौल : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि यूजर्स कमिटीज मुक्तलिग लेबिल पर बनी हुई है, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या उन्हें यह लालूम है कि वे जो कमिटीयाँ हैं उनकी कार्यवाही देखें, मिसाल के लिये यूजर्स कमिटी, तो यही होता है कि हर चीज रीफर की जाती है रेलवे बोर्ड को, और कोई उस पर ऐक्शन उस लेबिल पर नहीं लिना जाता है। तो यह बड़ी दिक्कत की चीज है।

श्री मुहंमद शफी कुरेशी : जनरल मनेजर्स को अख्ति-भारत दिये गये है कि वह जोनल कमिटीज के फैसलों पर अमल करें। अगर कोई ऐसा फैसला बहुत बुरा लिखा जाय जिसमे रेलवे बोर्ड या रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री की इजाजत की जरूरत होगी तो वही मामला रेलवे मिनिस्ट्री को आता है। लेकिन अगर कोई और शिकायत माननीय सदस्यों को है तो उसको देखा जा सकता है।

SHRI R. S. PANDAY: The very idea of forming the Consultative Committee like the Zonal Committee is just to have suggestions from the Members

of Parliament and other members representing the Chambers etc Public grievances etc, made are brought before this Committee We would like to be informed in the House on how to implement those suggestions which were made by the Members You might remember that we were told that in all the Users' Committee, Consultative Committee and other Committees an agenda is drawn up and discussion takes place But, nothing happens afterwards Everything is referred to the Railway Board I happen to be a Member I know that nothing else happens This is my main grievance And so, may I know whether the hon Minister has any detailed information in regard to the matter If so, let us know as to how far he has been able to implement those suggestions or grievances which were advanced by the Members of these Committees

**SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI**  
Sir, the suggestions made by the hon Members are carried out within the availability of funds with the Railways We are spending about Rs 4 crores on amenities to the passengers This amount is actually spent by the Zonal Committees So, it is not that all the suggestions made by the Members are brushed aside Only those suggestions which involve a heavy expenditure and which are beyond the railways are not implemented

**अप्रत्याचार के आरोप में पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के कर्मचारियों को दण्ड**

\*४४४. **श्री नूतनचन्द डागा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) 30 जून, 1972 को समाप्त होने वाली तिमाही में पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के विभिन्न विभागों में विभिन्न पदों पर काम कर रहे कितने कर्मचारियों को अप्रत्याचार के आरोप में दण्ड दिया गया, और

(ख) उन व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या हैं तथा उनको किस प्रकार के आरोपों के लिये दण्ड दिया गया और किस प्रकार का दण्ड दिया गया ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI)** (a) Seventy, Sir in addition seven employees were administered warning

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library See No LT-4779/73]

**श्री नूतनचन्द डागा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, अप्रत्याचार देश के लिये अभिशाप है, और आपने आईएम नम्बर 10 में श्री रामलोचन सिंह के बारे में लिखा है

Realisation of illegal money from passenger

इसी तरह से आईएम नम्बर 41 पर लिखा है कि

Acceptance of illegal gratification

इनके लिये आपने सजा दी है वारनिंग और इन्कीमेंट रोक दिया है। तो देश के भ्रष्टर जो इल्लीगल प्रेटिफिकेशन ले ले उसका इंडियन पीनल कोड में चालान नहीं करना चाहिए और इन्कीमेंट रोक देना चाहिये। क्या यह सजा काफी है ? जिन्होंने रिबरत का पैसा लिया है उनको कम सजा दे, क्या रेलवे में अप्रत्याचार को मिटाने का यही तरीका है जो उदाहरण मैंने दिये हैं ? जिन्होंने इल्लीगल प्रेटिफिकेशन ले लिये उनका इन्कीमेंट रोक दिया एक साल के लिये नस यही सजा है, या उनको प्रोसीक्यूट करना चाहिये ?

**श्री मुहम्मद शाही कुरैशी :** स्पीकर साहब, इसमें दो रायें नहीं हो सकती कि जो रिबरत लेता है उसको पूरी सजा मिलनी