

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Inquiries into railway accidents are normally made by the Government Inspectors of Railways and not by the Chief Government Inspector of Railways. The Government Inspectors of Railways held inquiries into 6 accidents during the period 1st April to the 30th September, 1957.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: If the Chief Inspector has not enquired into any accident, may I know whether he has carried out any one of the routine inspections of any railway line during this half year?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I cannot say definitely about his inspections; but his main function is to advise the Ministry about the working of the Inspectorate and he also goes through each and every report submitted by the Inspectors after they have made the enquiries. The Chief Government Inspector is attached to the Ministry.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know since when this practice of the Chief Inspector inspecting the railway lines was given up?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I do not think it has been given up. But, as I said, I am not aware of his inspections and I cannot give any definite information on that point. But, I know that the Chief Inspector has himself made enquiries in one or two instances. Some time ago, I remember that the Chief Government Inspector himself was asked to make enquiries.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: During the last 3 years there have been 3 major disasters in our country on the Railways. Was any one of these accidents personally enquired into by the Chief Inspector?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Perhaps, in all these major accidents, the House naturally took a very grave view and the House was insistent that enquiries should be made by some judicial per-

son and the hon. Member knows it very well that High Court Judges were appointed to enquire into these accidents.

Electrification Schemes on Indian Railways

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*1285. { Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri Subodh Hansa:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 324 on the 24th July, 1957 and state:

(a) the names of firms from whom offers of expert advice and assistance have been received in connection with the electrification scheme of Indian Railways;

(b) the names of firms whose advice has been accepted; and

(c) the terms and conditions on which they have agreed to do the job?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The names of the tenderers are given in the list laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 9.]

(b) and (c) The Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Francais-S.N.C.F. (French National Railways) have been appointed as Technical Associates S.N.C.F. under the agreement will provide technical collaboration on all aspects of A.C. traction system for sections programmed for electrification during the Second Five Year Plan on Eastern and South Eastern Railways. They will also train Indian Technical Personnel in various aspects of A.C. electrification. For all the services, it has been agreed to pay them £426,000.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What were the considerations on which the S.N.C.F. got preference over other firms?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It was considered that the French railways were the most advanced as far as A.C. traction was concerned and it is because of that they were selected. Also the terms they offered to us were favourable.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether training arrangements for the Indian personnel has been taken up by this firm; and, if so, how many are under training?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: After the preliminary inspection of the various lines, they have just returned and the office is being set up. And, I think all the other details will be taken up by them very shortly.

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether the same firm or any other firm are advising the Government in the electrification of the Khargpur-Howrah section?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The same firm.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether in view of the past experience that the continental and French firms supply most of their materials according to the metric system, and that creates difficulties later on and also in view of the experience that we are tied down to their products which may be costly and which may be a sort of compulsion for us to buy, have Government thought of how to circumvent or obviate that difficulty which often arises with such firms in this particular case?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: All these technical details were gone into very thoroughly by whatever experts we have got here and I think all these details have been satisfactorily looked into.

Shri Sonavane: Has the electrification of the Poona-Sholapur line been given to any of these firms?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: No, Sir.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether the fees paid to them, £4,26,000, was the lowest among the tenders?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): That was the most favourable.

Shri Punnesee: Is it not a fact that when it was decided that the Ernakulam-Quilon line would be metre

gauge one of the considerations was that it had to be electrified? May I know what the position is?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: That is a separate question; that has nothing to do with this electrification.

राजगृह और सोहना के भारतीय जलस्रोत

*१३०६. श्री भक्त वरुण : क्या रसायन्य मंत्री १५ नवम्बर, १९५६ के तारिखित प्रश्न संख्या ७६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजगृह और सोहना के भारतीय जल-स्रोतों के सम्बन्ध में जिन रूसी विशेषज्ञों ने छानबीन करनी थी, क्या उनकी अन्तिम रिपोर्ट में बीन प्राप्त हो गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उस रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति समा-पटल पर रखी जायेगी ;

(ग) उनकी सिफारिशों पर क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ; और

(घ) राजगृह व सोहना के जल-स्रोतों के अतिरिक्त देश के अन्य प्रमुख भारतीय जल-स्रोतों का सर्वेक्षण व उपयोग करने के लिये कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karnamkar): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. [See No. LT-471/57.]

(c) The recommendations of the Russian Experts in respect of Rajghir and Sohna mineral water sources have been sent to the State Governments concerned for consideration.

(d) A number of mineral springs occurring in different parts of India, have been surveyed by the Geological Survey of India.

Exploitation of the mineral springs is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.