

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Consistent with the wagon availability clearances from this area have been much greater than in the preceding year and therefore no special steps have been considered necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know by what time the entire stock is expected to be cleared?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is rather difficult to say when it will be cleared completely, because the difficulty is not one of providing wagons at these stations but of keeping in line with the quota limitations which are imposed from the port at which they are received.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India had approached the Ministry of Railways for allotment of wagons on a liberal basis, on a representation made by the Indian Jute Mills Association?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far we have not had any difficulty in removing jute from those areas. In fact last year there was an increase of 11.5 per cent. of jute removed from those areas.

Shri L. N. Mishra: As regard the procedure followed in the allotment of wagons to the parties, may I know whether it is a fact that complaints of rampant corruption in the matter of allotment have been made to Government?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There is only one normal procedure of allotment of wagons and, as I have stated before, the limitations were the quota limitations imposed from Calcutta.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have represented to the Railway Ministry for help in the matter of introduction of terminal tax on jute?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The information is not available.

DEVELOPMENT OF LIGNITE RESOURCES

*2142. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the development of lignite resources in the South Arcot District in the Madras State?

(b) Are Government contemplating to appoint any Commission or any special body to examine the coal position for forming grade and revision of coal prices?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The development of the lignite deposits is being undertaken by the Madras Government. The Government of India have placed at the disposal of the Madras Government, on a loan basis, certain heavy excavating machinery in connection with the working of the lignite Quarrying Scheme.

(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the recommendation made by the Railway Fuel Enquiry Committee *vide* para 74(i) in Chapter IV of the report. This recommendation has not yet been considered by the Government.

Shri K. P. Sinha: What steps have Government taken in regard to part (a)? May I know if any preliminary work has been done in this connection?

Shri Alagesan: The pilot work is being done under the auspices of the Madras Government and it is going on.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know if any foreign technical advice is sought to expedite matters?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, there is one foreign expert in the committee that has been appointed to look into this.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the matter is in the state of preliminary investigation or whether the project is being worked out.

Shri Alagesan: The project is being worked out.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the project is worked out by the Government through any private agency?

Shri Alagesan: It is directly done by the Madras Government.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know what interest the Railway Ministry is taking in the matter?

Shri Alagesan: As I have said they have loaned to them excavating machinery worth several lakhs of rupees. Just now we are not participating financially.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Apart from placing materials at the disposal of the Madras Government, have they been given any financial assistance?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered that. Just now we are not participating financially.

Shri V. P. Nayar: If I heard the Deputy Minister correctly, he said certain recommendations are not being considered by the Government. If that is so, may I know when these recommendations were received by Government, on what date?

Shri Alagesan: It was received only recently in the month of March, if I am correct. This part of the report is under consideration of the Production Ministry. They have to take action on this.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know if the Fuel Committee has reported that by regrading and repricing of coal, the Railways would be able to save to the extent of Rs. 1 crore per year?

Shri Alagesan: Yes. There are recommendations but this part of the report, as I said, is looked into by the Production Ministry.

DEVELOPMENT OF MINOR PORTS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*2143. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether representations have been made to the Central Government for aid to develop minor ports in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) Has the Central Government enquired into them?

(c) Which are the ports sought to be developed, and in which directions?

(d) Has the Transport Minister visited Alleppey in connection with the development of that port?

(e) If so, what are the steps taken subsequently?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) These proposals along with those of other and (e) Maritime State Governments will shortly be considered by a sub-committee of the National Harbour Board.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 1]

(d) Yes, in December, 1952, the Minister for Transport paid a visit to the Alleppey Port though it was not specifically in connection with any proposals for the development of that Port.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In the statement supplied I find that Rs. 14.9 lakhs are going to be spent on the Alleppey Port, Rs. 19 lakhs on the Trivandrum Port and Rs. 16.5 lakhs on the Quilon Port. May I know whether these amounts are to be spent within a particular period in accordance with any definite plan or will these amounts be spent even now?

Shri Alagesan: This is the programme that has been laid down by the State Government of Travancore-Cochin and they hope to carry out a part of this programme within the plan period, not the full programme.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire to what extent the Central Government will give their aid to these schemes?

Shri Alagesan: There is a proposal to grant loan assistance to the various States for improvement of their minor ports. It has not yet been finalised.

AGE OF RETIREMENT FOR ex-COMPANY RAILWAY STAFF

*2144. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any different age of retirement for ex-company Railway staff from that of Government Railway employees; and

(b) if so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The age of retirement of ex-Coy. Railway Staff is 55, the same as for Government Railway Staff. Ministerial staff who were in permanent Government service on 31-3-1938 are, however, retained in service upto the age of 60 subject to certain conditions.

(b) The rules under which ministerial staff were recruited in Government service upto 31-3-38 provide for this concession. All staff recruited to Government service after that date and the ex-Coy. staff taken over in Government service, have been so taken on the clear understanding that they will have to retire at the age of 55.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is not possible for Government to extend this concession of retirement at 60 to all the workers who used to work in the ministerial establishments before 1938 when the railways were managed by companies?

Shri Alagesan: This was considered and it was decided not to extend this concession to anybody except those who were employed by the Government before 1938.