

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, February 18, 1959/Magha 27,
1880 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Organising of Posts and Telegraphs Board

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*253. { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Subodh Hanvda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 772 on the 9th December, 1958 and state—

(a) how far the matter of setting up the Posts and Telegraphs Board has progressed,

(b) what financial and administrative powers are proposed to be delegated to the Board, and

(c) how it will compare with the Railway Board?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) A scheme is being prepared for the consideration of Government

(b) The scheme is being worked out on a substantial delegation of administrative and financial powers, but what the final shape would be it is too early to say

(c) There is no complete analogy with the Railway Board but in the
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preparation of the scheme that model is kept in view

Shri Rajendra Singh: In the interest of balance development of regional interests and diversification of location of Central offices, may I know if the Government consider it desirable to locate the P & T head office at Patna?

Shri S. K. Patil: This is something, I think, which does not arise out of this question because the question is about some kind of a Board that we are thinking of and not where the regional office should be located

Shri Rajendra Singh: I wanted to know whether in the interest of regional development and diversification of central offices—their location—it is not considered desirable that the head offices of some of the central departments should be located in other States and that is why I wanted to know from the hon Minister if it would not be desirable to locate the head office of P & T at Patna where there is no central office

Shri S. K. Patil: It is extremely undesirable, Sir, to have such a Board in Patna

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the Members of Parliament will be taken into confidence or the scheme is likely to be discussed with them before finalisation?

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not think, Sir, that would be the procedure. The scheme is in its formative stage. When it is ready, naturally it will come before Parliament

सेठ अचल सिंह क्या मंत्री महोदय
बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस बोर्ड का परसोनल
क्या है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल स्कीम तो अभी बन रही है। परसोनल बरीरह अभी नहीं बना है।

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether Government propose to separate the P & T finance pending the decision to set up this Board?

Shri S. K. Patil: No. The whole question is under consideration, and we do not want to do any piecemeal reform.

Shri S. C. Samanta: An interim arrangement for the construction of Posts and Telegraphs buildings was entered into with the Public Works Department. May I know whether it worked successfully, if not, may I know whether the setting up of this Board would be expedited?

Mr. Speaker: These are all suggestions for action.

Shri S. K. Patil: The first thing does not arise necessarily out of this question, but that is very much under our consideration in forming this new Board.

श्री भक्त बर्मान श्रीमान् क्या माननीय मंत्री जी अपना अनुमान बतला सकते कि देर से देर कब तक इस बारे में फैसला होने की आशा की जा सकती है।

श्री स० का० पाटिल जल्द से जल्द होगी मैं यह मानता हूँ। तैयार ता हो रही है। अभी एक दो हफ्ते में कैबिनेट के सामने जायेगी।

Shri Tangamani: This idea of setting up a P & T Board was mooted by the former Minister and this has been in the air for one year now. May I know definitely whether it will be finalised at least in the year 1959-60?

Shri S. K. Patil: I am most anxious to finalise it as quickly as possible. But, as I said, it is a complex matter and it does take time because the views of so many departments have to be taken into consideration.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know how far the institution of this P & T. Board as proposed is expected to eliminate red-tapism in the interest of workers?

Shri S. K. Patil: I hope that anything that is done to promote efficiency will also be good for the workers.

Extension of Mokameh-Barauni Section

*254 { ⁺Shri Barman:
Shri P. G. Sen:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the broad gauge section from Mokameh to Barauni is proposed to be extended,

(b) if so, how far and in which direction, and

(c) whether the question of goods traffic from Assam, North Bengal and North East Bihar has been considered?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration.

Shri Barman: In view of the fact that there is a bottle-neck in goods traffic from Assam and North Bihar may I know whether Government consider it desirable to extend the broad gauge line at least from Barauni to Silliguri for the present?

Mr. Speaker: That is what is under consideration.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this can be included in the next year's budget?

Mr. Speaker: It is under consideration.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Yes, Sir, it is under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.