

**Shri Khadilkar:** You admit that six calls were booked. I was sitting in my room in order to get information. No call was received in my place here. That is the main question.

**Dr. P. Subbarayan:** The information I have been given is that the call did not materialise and at about 3 o'clock it was cancelled.

#### Import of Second-hand Wheel Equipment

\*768. **Shri Chandak:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2602 on the 10th September, 1959 and state:

(a) whether a final decision on the question of importing second-hand wheel equipment from the United States has since been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, how long it will take to come to a decision;

(d) who indicated to the Transport Development Council in June 1959 that the landed cost of each set will be Rs. 200; and

(e) what was the basis of calculating the landed cost at Rs. 200 per set?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A decision is expected to be taken shortly.

(d) and (e). The cost of Rs. 200 per set was calculated on the basis of certain offers received from suppliers in the U.S.A. and it included the likely charges for additions and alterations, if any, to be made to the sets in India for fitment on bullock carts.

**Shri Chandak:** May I know if this proposal of importing 10,000 second-hand wheel assemblies from America has been approved by the Planning Commission? If not, what is their reaction?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The Planning Commission have advised that before we finally place orders or go ahead with this proposal, we should examine the feasibility of adapting the present bullock carts for quicker and smoother movement by introducing the ball bearing arrangement and other similar arrangements, and that is at present under investigation.

**Shri Chandak:** May I know how much of the sum of Rs. 50,000 sanctioned in April, 1951 and Rs. 2 lakhs sanctioned in February 1956, by the Transport Advisory Council has been spent for supplying wider steel flats for bullock cart wheels and for running pilot projects for bullock cart improvement?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly say how much of that has been spent, but the Advisory Committee, of course, recommended that for bullock carts, so far as possible, the new system might be arranged, and they might be fitted with iron tyres.

**Shri Chandak:** May I know whether the sum of Rs. 20 lakhs sanctioned by the Transport Development Council in June, 1959, will be spent for importing wheel assemblies or the sanction will remain on paper as on previous occasions?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I am afraid, the hon. Member is confusing things. The Transport Development Council is an advisory body; it does not sanction schemes and projects. It, of course, recommended that we should try to sanction a project for the purchase of 10,000 wheel assemblies, but that was subject to certain conditions. The Transport Development Council also advised that before we do so, we should also examine the possibility and the feasibility of having the ball bearing arrangement in the iron-tyre bullock carts so that we may, if possible, save some foreign exchange.

**Shri Chandak** rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Enough has been asked.