

trying to find out what happened and who was responsible.

**Shri Amrit Nahata:** The hon. Minister told us about imported wheat and imported rice. The drought-stricken people of Rajasthan have seen neither; they are supplied imported milo. What is the landing cost of imported milo and what is the issue price? Is it a fact that the imported milo is not fit for human consumption?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** It is not correct to say that we are not issuing wheat to Rajasthan government; we issue substantial quantities. As for milo, we subsidise it to the tune of Rs. 18.01 per quintal, which is a very substantial subsidy. I do not think that imported milo is unfit for human consumption or such milo is issued. We exercise strict control over it.

श्री राममोहन शालदास : क्या देश में इस प्रकार के किसान हैं जो ठीक समय पर गेहूँ नहीं बेचते, उसको इट्टा करके रख लेते हैं और जब कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं तब बाहर निकालते हैं। इससे महंगाई पर बहुत बड़ा असर पड़ता है और गेहूँ मन्दा नहीं होता ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** It is for the State Governments, whatever marketable surplus is available, to take vigorous steps to procure the available grains so that they are made available to the entire population, under the Centre or in the States.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### Mass Sick Leave by Firemen on Southern Railway

- S.N.Q. 39. **Shri P. Ramamurti:**  
**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:**  
**Shri Ganesh Ghosh:**  
**Shri George Fernandes:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Shri J. H. Patel:**  
**Shri Rabi Ray:**  
**Shri Nambiar:**  
**Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:**  
**Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:**  
**Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:**  
**Shri Atam Das:**

**Shri Y. S. Kushwah:**  
**Shri Arjun Singh**  
**Bhadoria:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that firemen on the Southern Railway have applied for mass sick leave;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that all goods trains have been cancelled; and

(d) if so, what steps the Railway Administration has taken in the matter so far?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) Yes, Sir; some Firemen and Engine Cleaners on certain Division on the Southern Railway.

(b) According to the information available with the Railway, this is in pursuance of a decision taken by the un-recognised sectional Firemen's Council to register their protest against non-redressal of their grievances.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All steps have been taken to maintain the train services as far as possible.

**Shri P. Ramamurti:** After this whole thing happened, on Saturday, I think, myself and Mr. Nambiar had met the Minister and had discussions with him. Subsequently, the Minister also had a trip to Bangalore and had met the General Manager of the Southern Railway, and after he returned yesterday, we had discussion with him and as a result of certain assurances, we had telegraphically informed those people requesting them to withdraw the strike, and I expect that the strike would be withdrawn by today. While appreciating the spirit with which the Minister looked into the whole problem, may I just enquire of the Minister that he would transmit to the General Manager the same spirit of accommodation and see that there is

no victimisation and all the firemen are fully restored?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Instructions have already been conveyed to the General Manager, Southern Railway, that immediately after normalcy is restored, the other actions needed in this regard should be taken.

**Shri P. Ramamurti:** What about victimisation?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** Actually, the hon. Member has written a letter and then I have replied to him according to the understandings that have been reached.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** May I know whether it is a fact that in the name of simplification of accounts, the total emolument of the engine cleaners and firemen has been reduced?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** In view of the change in the time-tables which takes place every six months, and also in view of the electrification of a certain sector in that region, certain link arrangements had to be re-done, and in that, there have been slight changes, and we have taken care that there is no retrenchment and also to the extent possible their total emolument as drawn by them previously would not suffer.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** All's well that ends well!

**श्री जार्ज फरनेडीज :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, राममूर्ति साहब और मन्त्री साहब में जो बातचीत हुई और उनका आपस में जो समझौता हुआ, उसकी रपट अखबारों में पढ़ने के बाद ऐसा मालूम हुआ कि मन्त्री महोदय ने हमेशा की तरह का आश्वासन दिया है। यदि हड़ताल करने वाले लोगों को वह मंजूर हो, तो मुझे उसमें कोई शिकायत नहीं करनी है, लेकिन, अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे पास सदर्न रेलवे की मजदूर यूनियन की तरफ से एक खत आया है, जिसमें उन लोगों ने वहाँ के डिबीजनल सुपरिन्टेंडेंट पर आरोप लगाया है कि उसने पुराने लिफ्ट

को, जिनका अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने भी जिक्र किया है, तोड़ डाला है। जहाँ चार इन्डर, चार फर्स्ट फायरमैन, चार सैकेण्ड फायरमैन-इस तरह से 12 लोगों को एक इयूटी पर लेना चाहिये वहाँ उन्होंने चार लोगों को उस काम पर लगाया। जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि पिछले कई दिनों से पैसेन्जर गाड़ियों और माल गाड़ियों के आने जाने में रुकावट पड़ी है और इससे काफी नुकसान हुआ है। कर्मचारियों को भी हुआ है, उस इलाके के लोगों का भी हुआ है, खास तौर से प्रनाज इत्यादि के मामले में ग्राम जनता को बहुत परेशानी हुई है। मेरा मन्त्री महोदय से यह प्रश्न है कि जिस डिबीजनल सुपरिन्टेंडेंट की बजह से यह सारी शंकाएँ हुई हैं—इन कर्मचारियों ने यह भी लिखा है कि मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछूँ—

“Is it a fact that the Tiruchirappalli Divisional Superintendent was whiling away his time during the evening session in the club on 25th July and 26th July, while there was a difficult situation in his division.”

तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि इस किस्म के डिबीजनल सुपरिन्टेंडेंट के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही मन्त्री महोदय करेंगे।

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** This simplification of the operational procedure has been introduced in the entire railway system of the Southern Railways. It is not in one division. In other divisions the work is going on on a normal basis. Here, there has been certain misunderstanding and there have been certain anomalies which will be looked into and necessary action will be taken.

**श्री जे. ए. लिंगम:** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो नई लिफ्ट का सवाल है, मेरा ख्याल है कि पूर्वी रेलवे में भी इस तरह के कई मामले आये हैं। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन नये लिफ्ट का जो असर

पड़ रहा है—सब से बड़ा भ्रसर तो यह पड़ा है कि कई लोगों की छटनी हुई है, ऐसी शिकायतें आई हैं—क्या इस पर मंत्री महोदय उच्च स्तर पर कोई पुनर्विचार करेंगे कि इस का क्या भ्रसर हुआ है—मजदूरों पर और रेलवे की कार्यक्षमता पर

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** These new links depend on the pattern of movement. When we dieselise certain sections and electrify certain other sections, then there is going to be a pattern in the overall movement and, accordingly new links will have to be formulated. Therefore, these things are the outcome of a phased programme of modernisation in the entire railway system. So, this has happened. But what we normally take care of is that due to such reformation of the link arrangements and new operational procedures there should not be any disadvantage to the railway employees in general. That care is always taken and these matters are discussed with the two federations at the highest level and they have generally agreed to the simplification procedure.

**Shri J. H. Patel** spoke in Kannada.

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** This is not quite germane to the main question. Regarding the medical facilities that are being made available to the railway employees, as the hon. Member must be knowing, free medical assistance is given to every railway employee and the family of the employee.

**श्री रबी राय :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, फोरमनों की हड़ताल एक बहुत बड़ी घटना होने जा रही है। 10-12 दिन पहले यह शिकायत आई थी कि वैस्टर्न रेलवे को कोटा डिवीजन में गंगापुर में जितने फोरमन थे, उनके मकानों में रेस्ट के लिये जो पंखे दिये गये थे, उनको डिवीजनल सुप्रीन्टेन्डेंट ने वापस ले लिया, जिसकी वजह से हड़ताल हुई, मालगाड़ियां बन्द हुईं। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ

कि गंगापुर-कोटा डिवीजन में जो हड़ताल हुई उससे वहां कितने रुपये का नुकसान हुआ जिस डिवीजनल सुप्रीन्टेन्डेंट ने उनके पंखे ले लिये थे, उसको क्या सजा या दण्ड दिया गया ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** I have no ready information on this question. I will try to collect it.

**श्री रबी राय :** हमने आपको दिया था। आपके पास इन्फॉर्मेशन है, लेकिन आप देना नहीं चाहते हैं।

**Shri Namblar:** In view of the fact that the firemen and drivers have not asked for anything new and that certain concessions were withdrawn and the trouble started thereon, are we to take it that the hon. Minister will set the matters right as soon as normalcy is restored and will see that all those who are suspended or kept out of duty are taken back and that no victimisation whatsoever will take place, as per the talks we had with him yesterday?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** As mentioned earlier, we will certainly give very sympathetic consideration, as per the discussions that took place yesterday, and necessary action will follow the moment normalcy is restored in this sector.

**श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया :** क्या रेलवे मन्त्रालय कोई ऐसी नीति निर्धारित करने की बात सोच रहा है कि जिन उच्च अधिकारियों के कारण यह हड़ताल और हड़ताल की सबब से जो नुकसान हो उसके लिए उच्च अधिकारियों को दंडित किया जाय, क्या इस पर रेलवे मन्त्रालय कोई विचार कर रहा है ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** I cannot accept the insinuation that certain officers committed some wrong and, therefore, these things have taken place. It is not so. There have been certain anomalies against which the employees were agitated and certain unpleasant things have taken place.

We will certainly look into the matters and set right the anomalies.

**Mr. Speaker:** He says he is not aware of it.

**श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदीरिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल साफ नहीं हुआ।

**श्री अ० सि० सहगल :** क्या यह सच है कि बहुत सी जोनल रेलवेज में इस तरह की बातें हुआ करती हैं यदि हां तो क्या उसके लिए एक छोटी कमेटी ग्राप बना करके तहकीकात करने की कोशिश करेंगे ताकि आगन्दा यह न होने पाये ?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** In all the railways, both at the zonal and divisional level we have already the permanent negotiating machinery where they discuss matters and sort out the anomalies and difficulties that occur in the day-to-day working. So, that machinery is there. Instead of taking recourse to that machinery which is available, if some section of the employees go on strike or take some extreme action, a certain amount of difficulty would naturally arise. The Railway concerned would take prompt action in these matters to set right such anomalies, whenever they are brought to our notice.

**Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee:** In spite of the fine sentiments and sympathies expressed by the hon. Railway Minister, it is a known fact that the railway employees go on complaining. I would request the hon. Minister to go into the real disease, which is dual control between the Ministry and the Railway Board. Even this morning some railway employees marched to my flat only to express their difficulties and troubles. They say that the dual control has to be removed. Is he prepared to consider that aspect?

**Shri C. M. Poonacha:** I am not aware of any dual control.

**Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee:** Sir, he has not answered my question.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Development of major Ports

**\*1505. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:**  
**Shri Yajna Datt Sharma:**  
**Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:**  
**Shri R. K. Amin:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give top-priority to the development of major ports in the country; and

(b) if so, the main decisions taken in this regard and the broad features of the development programme?

**The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):** (a) and (b). The development of major ports is vital for the success of our economic development, especially in regard to the programmes of export promotion. It is, therefore, one of the more important aspects of transport development provided in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan. A programme for the development of major ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan envisaging a total investment of Rs. 234 crores has been included in the Draft Outline. The programme covers the new dock systems to be established in Haldia and Madras, the extension and modernisation of the dock system in progress in Bombay and Calcutta; addition to berthing capacity at various ports; and improvement of the existing handling facilities to increase the operational efficiency of ports. It is expected that these measures will enable the major ports to cope with the anticipated increase in traffic which is expected to rise from 50 million tonnes at the end of the Third Five Year Plan to about 80