

## REPORT OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

**Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput):** I beg to present the Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1960.

12.16 hrs.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

## AGREEMENT ON INDO-PAKISTAN RAIL-LINK

**Shri N. R. Muniswamy (Vellore):** Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The agreement on Indo-Pakistan rail-link recently signed at Rawalpindi."

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** Sir, it was stated on 19th April, 1960 that discussions were held between Indian and Pakistani delegations in April 1960, concerning the grant of transit facilities for the movement of civilian traffic from one country to the other through the other country but were adjourned to enable each side to collect further information for consideration at a subsequent meeting. The two delegations from India and Pakistan held further discussions on the subject in Rawalpindi on 16th to 18th November, 1960, and their agreed conclusions are under consideration by the Government of India. The details will be made known when the agreements are concluded.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad):** Since my name is also there in the list, may I put one question? May I know whether the Government are prepared to confirm or deny the press reports which have appeared about the signing of the agreement in Rawalpindi or at least about the agreement which has been reached there? The hon. Minister has stated that the terms are under study.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** No detailed communique has been issued by the two delegations. The two delegations issued a brief communique that agreements have been reached and they are subject to the approval of the two Governments. Until the two Governments have examined and agreed to this arrangement, it is premature to divulge them.

**Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur):** May I know how any agreement can be reached without the details being discussed? It has been stated by the Minister that an agreement has been signed and he says that the details are to be discussed later on. Are we to understand that Government have formulated their policy without discussing the details?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I am afraid the hon. Member has not followed what I have said. The two delegations have discussed the details and we are examining the arrangement that they have arrived at. They have arrived at that arrangement after every detail has been discussed.

**Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun):** May I know....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to allow a discussion on this.

**Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal):** Since my name is also there, I may be permitted to put a question.

**Shri Tyagi:** Will this agreement be of the nature of a treaty having a permanent character? Will it have permanent effect or is it going to be signed for a fixed period, after which both the parties will have the right either to continue or not to continue it?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Certainly, the arrangement will be for a period. It cannot be permanent for all time to come.

**Shri Tyagi:** Shall I take it that it will not have the force of a treaty?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Yes, that is so.