

**RAJYA SABHA**

*Monday, the 6th May, 1968/the 18th  
Vaisakha, 1890 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

**MEMBER' SWORN**

Shri Narayan Rao Krishnarao (Madhya Pradesh).

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****COMMITTEE TO STUDY FREIGHT STRUCTURE OF RAILWAYS**

\*151. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: f SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to appoint a committee to study the freight structure of Railways and to suggest ways to attract more goods traffic so as to increase utilisation of capacity and reduce cost; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative what would be the nature of the study and composition of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): (a) and (b) No committee as such has been appointed. However, this subject is being examined by a Senior Railway Officer.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the Estimates Committee in one of their Reports have recommended the appointment of such a Committee and if that is so, What steps are being taken to implement the recommendation of the Estimates Committee?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: We have received the Report of the Estimates Committee about this matter.

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava. 117 R.S.

This relates to the various aspects of the Railway Administration; as such the matter is under consideration. After we go through all those details we will consider whether there is any necessity for appointing such a Committee.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the fact that the goods traffic is being diverted to the road, it is not considered necessary that such a Committee should be appointed which would go into the question and suggest ways which may bring back the goods traffic from the road to the railways?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: Sir, we have already taken some steps in this matter. A post of an Officer on Special Duty has already been created in the Railway Board and his purpose is to examine and review the rates structure and to suggest if any changes are necessary. He is now going into the details particularly in the matter of relating the rates to the goods transported and also into the details of competition from other modes of transport. We have taken up several other steps also. For example we have created a Marketing and Sales Organisation in each of the zonal Railways. This organisation is meeting the trade people and finding out from them their difficulties. To an extent we have succeeded in our efforts and we are getting back some of the traffic which had gone to the road particularly in respect of vegetable shee. motor cars, cotton and other thinfs. We have also introduced puner . exrjress services some of which are being hauled by diesel engines. It has resulted in a substantial reduction of the running time. It is now becoming very popular with the trade and the industry. We have introduced a special service for transportation of motor cars which was not there befor, and we are now getting about four to six motor specials every month on the South Eastern Railway.