

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday the 23rd November, 1967/
the 2nd Agrahayana 1889 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY OFFICERS SENT TO USA FOR TRAINING

*91 SHRI A C GILBERT Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state

(a) the present rules for selection of
Railway Officers for training in the
United States of America under the
US Aid Programme,

(b) whether qualifications, seniority
experience and Character Rolls are
taken into consideration while selecting
Officers for such training,

(c) whether the officers selected are
required to give an undertaking that
their families would not either accom-
pany or follow them to the United
States of America and if so whether
this is strictly followed in practice

(d) whether the rules in this regard
were different prior to 1967, and

(e) if so the details thereof and the
reasons for the changes made in
1967?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
PARIMAL GHOSH) (a) and (b) Offi-
cers for training in USA are selected,
taking into account qualifications,
seniority experience, record of service,
etc

(c) In cases where the period of
training abroad is less than 12 months,
officers are required to give an under-
taking that their families will not
accompany or follow them. In the past,
this condition has, however been re-
laxed in special cases on medical
grounds

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise

SHRI A C GILBERT May I know,
Sir, whether it is a fact that a Class I

officer who was finally selected to go
to the USA in 1967 for higher studies
under the USAID programme was
replaced by an unselected officer? If
so, who did it and what are the reasons
for doing it? Also, may I know whe-
ther the Government has received any
complaint from the USAID authorities
regarding violation of the rules and
regulations of the training programmes
and, if so, whether it is a fact that
due to some pressure, the officer con-
cerned has been shielded?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH Sir, no
such case has been reported to the
Railway Board in this connection. If
any specific thing is being referred to,
the hon Member may kindly mention
it so that we may look into the matter.

SHRI A C GILBERT Sir there
are very clear rules that officers who
are involved in vigilance cases are not
considered for going abroad and also
for promotions. May I know, Sir,
whether it is a fact that an officer who
was sent in the place of an actually
selected man, was involved in a vigil-
ance case and, if so, the reasons for
sending him?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH Sir, we
were not aware of any vigilance case
regarding any officer who has been sent
abroad for this training. In any case
vigilance clearance is not taken before
officers are sent abroad for training.
But if the hon Member will give me
some indication about the matter the
matter will definitely be looked into.

SHRI A D MANI Sir I am sur-
prised at the answer given by the
Minister because the Ministry must
have in its possession the names of
those officers who were involved in vigi-
lance investigations. I would like the
Railway Ministry to tell us categorically
that no such report was received from
the Vigilance Department by the Rail-
way Board.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH Sir, so
far as the officers who have been sent
abroad for training are concerned no
such report from the Vigilance Depart-
ment was received.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know, Sir, from the hon. Railway Minister whether enough care is taken to see that only such officers are sent abroad for training whose services could be utilised on their return and not such officers who are on the verge of superannuation and on whose return, it is found that all their training has gone waste because their services cannot be utilised?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : They will be available to the private sector.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, briefly speaking, these officers are sent for training purely on managerial technique and management technique. They are not sent for any specific specialised training. And when these officers come back after taking this training in management technique, efforts are always made to post them in such a way that their training could be utilised in the best possible manner.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know how many officers have been sent by our Railways to the United States for training and what their average age is?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Sir, I can give you the number of officers sent for training, year by year.

Year	No. of Officers
1962	3
1963	3
1964	4
1965	15
1966	22

So far as the ages of the officers are concerned, I don't have any specific information with me now.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Will he find out and place the information on the Table of the House?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : Yes, I will find out and place it on the Table

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : May I know how many years of

useful service the officers who are sent abroad for training would be able to put in in the Department after their return from abroad? Has any consideration been given to this aspect of the matter?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : It all depends on the age of the officer who is sent abroad. After he has come back, his services will be utilised for the number of years of service that is left.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO ALLEGED MALPRACTICES OF BIRLA INDUSTRIES

*92. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :**†
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN :
SHRI M. M. DHARIA :
DR (MRS) MAGALADEVI TALWAR :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 324 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 1967 and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken for appointing a Commission of Inquiry to look into the charges of corruption and malpractices levelled against Birla Group of Industries; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for non-appointment of the commission of Inquiry so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) and (b) Government have actively proceeded with the investigations into the various allegations against the Birla Group of Companies which was the subject of discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 1967. The investigations cover a wide field and some of the detailed replies have been received only very recently.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.