

**CONTEST IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION BY
RAILWAY EMPLOYEE**

- *498. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:
SHRI RAJNARAIN:
SHRIMATI SARLA BHADAURIA:
SHRI D. THENGARI:
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI:
SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:
SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDAR-
RAM:
DR. B. N. ANTANI:
SHRI G. MURAHARI:
SHRI TRILOKI SINGH:
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:
SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD:
SHRI BIRA KESARI DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Members of Parliament and prominent citizens of Bhavnagar sent many representations and met the Minister of Railways in deputations in connection with the case of the Railway employee who contested Municipal Election in 1957 at Bhavnagar on Western Railway;

(b) whether any reply to the said representations was sent and what was the nature of the talks with the deputationists; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes, Sir, in connection with the case of Shri Mukundray T. Parekh, who contested the Municipal Election in 1957 at Bhavnagar.

(b) Replies to the representations were generally sent. As regards the talks with the deputationists, I would like to draw the attention of the Mem-

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bers to the information given by the former Minister for Railways, Shri S. K. Patil, [See below] on this subject, on the floor of this House, on 24th March, 1965 while discussing the Railway Budget. Shri S. K. Patil had informed this House that many deputations also came to him and they were told that Shri Parekh had no case.

(c) Does not arise.

Extract from Shri S. K. Patil's Speech

".....One case was referred to by the Hon. Shri Dahyabhai, the case of one Shri Parikh, who sought permission to stand for election to the Bhavnagar Municipality. In this connection, many deputations also came to me and so I would like to tell you what the case is. Shri Parikh applied on the 9th July, 1957 for General Manager's permission to contest the municipal election at Bhavnagar to be held in September, 1957 as an independent candidate. Normally, railway employees are not given permission to contest or hold seats in local bodies. The decision not to permit Shri Parikh to contest the election was taken on the 31st August, 1957 by the then Deputy General Manager on behalf of the General Manager and the Chief Accounts Officer informed the Assistant Accounts Officer, Bhavnagar, on the phone after the decision was taken by the Deputy General Manager. Accordingly, Shri Parikh was advised by the Assistant Accounts Officer in his letter which was delivered on the same date at his residence that he was not granted permission to contest the election. Shri Parikh stated before the Enquiry Committee:—

"The Assistant Accounts Officer's letter was actually not delivered to me as I was out. Still, I admit its receipt."

Although he did not get, he admits having received the communication. He did not withdraw his candidature. On the date of the election, that is the

2nd September, he was on sick leave. After that, Shri Parikh was called upon to resign from the membership. Since repeated attempts to make him resign failed, the Railway Administration had to take appropriate disciplinary action for breach of the service conduct rules because no railway employee could be allowed to be a member of any local body. Ours is a Government Organisation and it is bound by the rules that we have made. If anybody wants to go to the local body, why not come to the legislature, why not come to this honourable House, why not come to Parliament, and I will be helped and assisted by fifty Members belonging to the Railways as Members of this hon. House or that hon. House? Now, is it contended that we should have these people taking part in politics? I personally feel that it is right that we have not allowed them to take part. We cannot allow these people to take part in politics. It was open to Shri Parikh to resign after being elected. He cannot have the pleasure of being a member of a local body and at the same continue in service. That unfortunately is my trouble. He said that he had some case by which he could go to a court of law. I said if he could go to a court of law, if it could be done, surely I would be happy. I said this to those people who came to see me. They said, he is a poor man, how could he go to a court of law? It would be expensive. I said I would personally pay him the cost not because of any challenge or anything. Very often I do mad things. Here was a man who thought . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is your Service Conduct Rules.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The Members of the Railway Board were with me when I said this. I did not say this privately. My whole idea was that if a man was really labouring under a grievance, that there is something which in justice belongs to him, while the Railways have got plenty of money and can go to a court of law, this poor man has no money. I said, if that is

the only trouble, I would pay. I did not want him to be under a grievance. Personally I felt he had no case. He could have resigned. Therefore, there is nothing out of the way that we did in this case. I can assure my friend, Mr. Dahyabhai, that if we introduce this thing, if we permit these people to go into the various local bodies, it would be very difficult for us. That is the reason why it was not done."

प्राकृतिक रेशम के वस्त्रों के निर्यात में गिरावट

*499. श्री राम सहाय : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1966 में प्राकृतिक रेशम के वस्त्रों के निर्यात में परिमाण तथा विदेशी मुद्रा उपार्जन दोनों ही दृष्टि से गिरावट आने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ख) निर्यात में गिरावट के कारणों को दूर करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गए हैं ?

†[FALL IN EXPORT OF NATURAL SILK FABRICS]

*499. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the fall in exports of natural silk fabrics both in the terms of quantity and foreign exchange earnings in 1966; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to remove the causes of fall in exports?]

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री एम० शफी कुरेशी) : (क) 1966 में प्राकृतिक रेशम के वस्त्रों के निर्यात में गिरावट आने के मुख्य कारण हैं:—

(1) अमेरिका को टसर के निर्यात में अत्यधिक गिरावट ।

†[] English translation.