

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The incident took place on the morning of 2-11-1961.

(b) Rs. 15,000 approximately.

(c) The Report of the Enquiry Committee set up to find out the causes of the fire is still under examination.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, what was the cost of the diesel trolley?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The «ause is still under examination.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I wanted to know the cost of the diesel trolley and not 'cause'.

SHRI ISHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Normally the cost of a diesel trolley is between Rs. 2J lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it will be useable again after repairs?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member that this diesel rail car was purchased about 21 years ago and it had more or less outlived its utility. It was a pretty old one.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know how the loss has been estimated? Is it after allowing all depreciation for all these years? How has the figure of Rs. 15,000 been arrived at?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We go by the book value.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if this accident is the first of its kind in the railways or whether there was a similar accident before?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: That is a very wide question. I shall require a separate notice. But fires have been known to have occurred in diesel rail cars.

\*389. [The questioner (Mirza Ahmed Ali) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2365-2366 infra.]

#### USE OF STAFF CARS

390. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Secretaries to Deputy Ministers and Ministers are allowed to use the staff cars from their residence to office and back;

(b) whether they are also allowed to use the staff cars on Sundays and other closed holidays even for their private work; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the negative, what steps have been taken by the Government to check the misuse of staff cars by making false entries in the log books?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha, in due course.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know under whose administrative control these cars come, and why is it necessary to collect the information and it is not readily available with the Ministry concerned?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It comes under the Finance Ministry and therefore we have got to get the information from them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The car is with the Minister concerned, I believe, and if so may I know whether any record is kept, for example, in the hon. Minister's house as to how his car is being used by the Deputy Secretaries or Private Secretaries?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: No staff car is in any Minister's house.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then where are they kept and under whose permission are they used?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: They are , used under the rules framed by the Government of India.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Am I to understand that even the log book is under the control of the Finance Ministry? The Transport Ministry must have a log book. He will be able to tell us.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It is in the Finance Ministry, and every one who uses the car enters in it.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if there is a practice of charging the Ministers and Deputy Ministers when they use the staff cars for other than official use?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Yes, there is charge when it is used for a private purpose.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether the staff cars with the various Ministries are garaged at one place, the Central Government garage, or they are garaged at different places.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It is a matter for the Finance Ministry to answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Since these are entered in the book which is kept with the Finance Ministry, may I know what is the reason why it should not be possible for the Government, having got ten days' notice to refer to that book and get the simple answer?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It is a detailed examination which will have to be done by the Finance Ministry separately.

#### NEW SCALES OF PAY TO THE CATERING MANAGERS

•391. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering Managers on all the Railways have been given new scales of pay;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the process of fixing of the Catering Managers in the new scales of pay recommended by the Second Pay Commission is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) The new scales of pay have been allotted to the Catering Managers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The process of fixation is likely to be completed shortly.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know in what Railways the process of fixation has not been completed so far?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: In the Central, North Eastern and Southern Railways it is not fully implemented. Northern Railway is examining it. In the South Eastern Railway it is again under examination. All the five Railways have said that it will be implemented shortly.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether, when the fixation takes place, it will be with retrospective effect from the date on which the orders were issued by the Railway Board?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: There were certain rules regulating it. With regard to retrospective effect, I would like to have notice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Since the delay is due to the failure of the railway authorities or since the fault