

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is the policy of the Railway Administration today to consider the earnings of a particular limited track with a view to deciding as to whether it should be operated or not? If that is not the policy, why has the Government decided to abolish this track when the entire people of Purulia and the neighbourhood are demanding that this should be retained?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I might submit that we have done it; the West Bengal Government have also agreed to it and they have agreed to put more bus services and what little there is of goods traffic will be taken up by the lorry service.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is not a fact that the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Shri Jyoti Basu, approached Dr. B. C. Roy and that Dr. Roy pleaded that it was a matter for the Centre to decide and that if the Centre would still insist on its decision only in that case will the Government try to meet the situation by taking measures that lie within its powers? Why is he putting it in that form?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: We are not concerned with what took place there.

IMCO'S DECISION TO DISENFRANCHISE INDIA

*79. **SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lodged any protest against the decision taken by the United Nations Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation Assembly (IMCO) in January, 1959 to disenfranchise her for the time being, and if so, with what results; and

(b) the reasons for such a decision against India which is a member country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). The Government of India ratified the Convention of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation subject to a reservation which according to the established practice of the Organisation had to be circulated to the Member States on whose acceptance India could become a full member. Pending this circulation, the IMCO Assembly allowed our representative to fully participate in the deliberations and to take seat on the Council but without the right of vote.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know since when India is a member of the IMCO, a branch of the United Nations Organisation?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we have ratified the Convention and we have taken our seat. The existing practice is that whenever a reservation is made by any country for joining a convention or a conference of this type, the same is circulated to members and after the members have given their consent, the right of vote is also acquired.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know when India applied for it, and was there any other country except India which was treated in this way in this Session?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The President ratified the Instrument on the 31st December, 1958 and the same were deposited with the IMCO, on the 6th of January, 1959. I do not think that any other country was in a similar position at this conference.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know if it is not a fact that the Indian Delegate who participated in this conference did protest and whether the protest made by him was justified or not according to the statement of the hon. Minister given on the floor of this House?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: He emphasised the fact that we had already ratified the Convention and that we should be allowed to participate fully in the deliberations which he was allowed to do. Of course, the usual practice that the reservations made by a country are first circulated to the member countries had to be gone through and that could not be avoided.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know what is the importance? What is the reservation that has to be made which has caused this trouble?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The reservation has been made to safeguard the legitimate interests of Indian national shipping. So far as the protection measures are concerned, we give our shipping certain facilities, for example, reservation of coastal trade, and loan assistance at concessional rates. We also encourage them by giving Government-owned and Government-controlled cargo. These are measures which might otherwise have been taken as discriminatory in practice.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether intimation of this reservation was not sent sufficiently in time?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The opinion of the Indian shipping circles was divided. Some sections of Indian ship owners were very much insistent that a reservation should be made, while others were not. Ultimately the Government decided that we should have the reservation, in view of the fact that other countries too like Ecuador, Turkey, even the U.S.A., had made similar reservations. We have followed the same practice. All this took time.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Are there any articles of this organisation which prevent a country making this kind of reservation from being included in the organisation?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think it is an accepted practice that the countries joining such organisation can make such reservations and some other countries have also made reservations. Those reservations are invariably circulated to member countries for their consent.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know when this organisation was first set up? Was India a member of this organisation in the past before we made this reservation?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The first conference that was held was on the 4th of January.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Countries like the U.S.A. which made reservations, have they been disenfranchised?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They had sent their reservations earlier which were circulated and all the formalities were fulfilled.

CANAL WATER DISPUTE WITH PAKISTAN

*80. { **SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO:**
SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND†:
SHRI NAWAB SINGH
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the talks now going on at Washington under the auspices of the World Bank in regard to the canal water dispute with Pakistan; and

(b) when the talks are likely to conclude?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) and (b). The negotiations between the representatives of India and Pakistan, through the good

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Amolakh Chand.