

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I could not follow the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After the proposal has been notified, have the Drivers and Guards been doing better? That is what he asked.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: He is asking specifically about the Southern Railway. Cash awards of Rs. 25/-, Rs. 15/-, Rs. 10/- and Rs. 20/- respectively are being given to the Driver, First Foreman, Second Foreman and the Chief Guard of the trains provided good performance is recorded on 80% of the trains worked by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has it resulted in any improvement?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it proposed to give air travel facilities to the Members of Parliament?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is a sort of encouragement.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: It is an extraordinary scheme. I suppose efficiency and punctual running of trains do not depend upon the efficiency of one person; it is a co-operative matter. In that case one fails to see how it is being achieved, and I should like the hon. Minister to explain to us how the scheme for awards would work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The prizes will have to be given to the whole Railway Ministry, he says, because all of them are co-operating in making the things work, not merely the Guards, the Station Masters, the Drivers but everybody.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: It is not really one person, it is a co-operative matter.

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL ORGANISATION

♦187. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state the special benefits enjoyed by the members of the International Hospital Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : The main object of the International Hospital Federation is to facilitate exchange of ideas regarding the organisation of hospitals and improvements in the hospital administration.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, what the Member nations are of this Organisation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice. We are a Member.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if this Organisation provides some equipment or monetary grants to the hospitals of undeveloped countries or not?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. It is for exchange of ideas and publication of a hospital journal. There is no question of equipment.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Does the membership of the International Hospital Organisation make it necessary following certain standards with regard to the specifications of hospitals?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is really for exchange of useful ideas.

SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE STEEL SLEEPERS

*188. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 130 in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1958 and state whether the enquiry regarding the supply of defective steel sleepers has since been completed? If, so, what action has been taken against the suppliers as well as the officers responsible for accepting defective supplies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): The case is still with the Special Police Establishment under their

investigation which has not been completed yet.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, since how long this investigation is going on and when it is likely to be finished?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: It has been going on for some months and because investigation has got to be carried on at several points, it will take some more time.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the same firm, is still getting orders to supply sleepers to the Railways even after the defects were found or whether further supply has been stopped?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: No further order has been placed with that firm.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The firm is completing the former orders pending with them.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Deputy Minister did not state in the Lok Sabha that some further orders to be given to this firm have been cancelled?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The old orders are being continued. No fresh orders are given. That is what he said.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, since when this firm is dealing with the Railways supplying materials from foundries?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: This order was placed somewhere in April, 1956.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: That firm has been dealing with Railways since long.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: May I know, Sir, whether these sleepers were examined by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals before they

were allowed to be despatched to the Northern Railway?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I would not like to answer that question at this stage because the entire question is being investigated into by the S.P.E. and that will be one of the aspects to be determined in the investigation by the S.P.E.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: May I know, Sir, when a complaint was received that the sleepers were defective, any further inspection was made by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals or not, and if so, what the result was?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not think any further investigation was made by them. I do not think it was necessary for them to have any investigation.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: Even after the complaint was made that the sleepers were defective the Director General of Supplies and Disposals made no further inspection?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, the complaints were made that the sleepers were defective. *Prima facie* it was found that in certain respects they were defective. Now, whether the contractor himself was entirely responsible, whether the organisation, which makes primary inspection, was responsible or whether some officer of the Railways was responsible, that aspect is under investigation by the S.P.E.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: I am not concerned with that aspect. What I want to have the answer on is a question of fact. After the complaint, did the Director General of Supplies and Disposals arrange for a second inspection or not?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have said "No".

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: Will not the hon. Minister make further enquiries?"

I understand that a further inspection was made.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will look into that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that defective sleepers have been supplied and the matter is under investigation, why the Government has not yet frozen pending orders with a particular firm?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I think that order has come to an end, more or less.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: What has been done to the defective sleepers such as were used and such as were not used.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There was slight defect which was rectified. All the sleepers have been used.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know the name of the company which supplied the sleepers?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The name of the company is Hanuman Foundries Ltd., Lillooah.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, the price stated by them?

(No reply.)

OPENING OF FOODGRAIN FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN DELHI

•189. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of fair price shops opened in the Territory of Delhi in January, 1959, for sale of wheat, flour and other foodgrains and whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open more fair price shops in the congested city areas where large queues are seen at such shops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): The total number of Fair Price Shops opened by Government

in January, 1959 was 213 for sale of, imported wheat and 430 for sale of atta made from imported wheat. 8 more wheat shops were opened early in February, raising the number of wheat shops to 221. It is not correct that large queues are seen at these fair price shops. While Government do not consider it necessary to open any more shops in Delhi at present, suitable adjustment in the number and location of shops can always be made according to the needs of the different localities.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, if any of the hon. Ministers of the Food Ministry have taken care to go and see any of the fair price shops in the city of Delhi?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have myself gone to some of these fair price shops. I have not seen large queues, as has been stated in the question. Of course, for some time—in early January—there were some large queues in certain shops but that position has been improved.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, the quantity of foodgrains that are put for daily sale in these shops and how many persons are expected to purchase their foodgrains from each shop?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is given a weekly supply of 180 maunds of imported wheat. The total quantity of wheat now distributed per month in Delhi is 21,000 tons, i.e. 16,000 tons for the mills and 5,000 tons for the fair price shops. The estimated quantity that has been taken in the local market during the last year will be quite sufficient.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Sir, I did not get any reply to the second part of my question as to the number of persons who are expected to make their purchases from these shops. The hon. Minister mentioned the quantity but not the number of persons who are expected to make their purchase from these shops.