

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 18th August 1955

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

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna (Delhi)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RAILWAY SIGNALLING AND INTERLOCKING

*53. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that was planned to be spent during the period of the first Five Year Plan for the improvement of railway signalling and interlocking; and

(b) whether co'oured light signals will be introduced at all stations; and if so, at what cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Rs. 3.91 lakhs approximately.

(b) Colour light signals are normally installed at large and busy stations and suburban electrified sections. Such signals will not be introduced at all stations. The approximate cost would be Rs. 94 lakhs for providing these signals on certain busy sections.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is this sum of Rs. 94 lakhs intended for some stations or for one station?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This amount is distributed over various railways.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know in how many stations this colour signal will be installed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In the Northern Railway, stations in the Delhi Area; in the Southern Railway, certain large and busy stations and

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the suburban electrified section; in the Eastern Railway, all stations between Howrah and Burdwan.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: With regard to the manufacture of electric signalling equipment for the Indian Railways, may I know whether any orders have been placed with Indian firms? If so, to what extent we have been importing this equipment so far?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I would like to have notice, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether this sum of Rs. 3.91 crores has already been spent or is it that orders to that extent have been placed? If the latter is the case, have the orders been placed inside the country or outside?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Approximately Rs. 2 crores have been spent so far.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Outside India or inside?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not follow.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I want to know whether the orders have been placed for importing this equipment or for manufacturing it here in India.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is going into the details of the estimate. I do not have the details.

LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF SHIPS

*54. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the loans made available to shipping companies so far in the year 1955-56 for the purchase of ships outside India;

(b) whether the entire amount sanctioned for this purpose in the year 1954-55 was fully utilised by now;

(c) what is the number of ships purchased or ordered for purchase from abroad since the 1st April 1954; and

(d) the names of the countries from which ships were purchased or with whom orders were placed during that period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Rs. 215.42 lakhs.

(b) Out of a total of Rs. 924.58 lakhs sanctioned during 1954-55, a sum of Rs. 496.42 lakhs has been drawn by the shipping companies so far.

(c) 17 ships have been purchased or ordered for purchase from abroad since the 1st April 1954, with the aid of Government loans.

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Two ships have been purchased from and building orders for nine ships have been placed in West Germany.

Two ships have been purchased from Norway, one from Sweden and three from the United Kingdom.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Out of the ships ordered from abroad, how many have been received in India?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think that is given in the statement. Two ships have been purchased and orders for nine ships have been placed in West Germany. Two ships have been purchased from Norway, one from Sweden and three from the United Kingdom.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Out of the nine to ten crores of rupees that were made available to the shipping companies for purchase of ships, the answer covers only about four and odd crores of rupees. May I know what is the difficulty experienced by

the shipping companies in not utilising the amount? Is it that they wanted better terms?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These amounts have been sanctioned but they have not yet been drawn.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The amounts sanctioned relate to the period 1954-55 and we are now in 1955-56 in which year also certain sums have been set apart but why is it that the amount set apart for the year 1954-55 has not been drawn in full? Is it that they have been asking for better terms?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These terms have been sufficiently liberalised and they have been agreed to by the companies but they have not yet drawn the amount sanctioned. They are waiting to place orders.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: What is the position of availability of ships abroad?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Orders for these ships have been placed on foreign yards like Germany, etc. The shipping companies might purchase ships in the second hand market also.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: May I know the present position of the ship building industry in the country and the prospects in the immediate future?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a large question.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think that should be addressed to another Ministry.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it a fact that ships are purchased from Germany because they are cheaper there than in U.K.?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Maybe; delivery is also quicker than in other countries.