

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to create more job opportunities for the employment of the unemployed instead of paying them unemployment relief which would involve a massive financial outlay. The Plan 1980—85 is in the formulation stage. The creation of employment opportunities is one of the objectives of the new Plan.

Loco-staff on strike

530. SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR;
SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH;
SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of loco running staff of the Northern Railways who have been dismissed/suspended/reverted from service because of their taking part in the recent strike in the Delhi Division-

(b) whether the affected persons were given an opportunity to explain their conduct before taking such an action;

(c) whether Government are aware of the growing resentment in the ranks of loco running staff; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider their cases for reinstatement.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIK ARJUN): (a) to (d) The recent strike of loco running staff of Northern Railway affected Delhi and other divisions of that Railway.

As a result of action taken against employees who were taken up for acts

of violence, intimidation, assault on loyal workers and such other misconduct initially, 194 employees were dismissed | removed from service under Discipline and Appeal Rules and two were placed under suspension. All these cases have been reviewed by a Committee of officers and the present position of these cases is as follows: —

Dismissed removed from service	56
Reduction	21
Suspension	2

Complaints against Port authorities in Pondicherry

531. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM;
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA;
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against the Port authorities in Pondicherry from the Pundhuvai Manila Thuraimuga Ooz-hiyar Sangam as well as the demands of the workers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) No such complaints have been received by Government of India. However, Pondicherry Government have received complaints against* Pondicherry Port authorities over non settlement of outstanding demand made by Pundhuvai Manila Thuraimuga; Oozhiyar Sangam, who also served notice threatening agitation and tokej strike on 30 July, 1980.

(b) The Union raised a charter of 21 demands. The demands were discussed with the union representative

by the Secretary (Port) of Pondi-cherry who promised to look into the grievances of the workers sympathetically and do the needful wherever feasible. The Union representatives agreed to withdraw their agitation.

Unsatisfactory catering on the Indian Railways

532. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL: SHRI
KHURSHED ALAM KHAN;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that catering on the Indian Railways continues to be highly unsatisfactory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no steps have so far been taken to improve the standard and quality of catering on the Railways; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No. Though there is room for further improvement, the standard of catering services provided on the Railways is generally satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Railways are constantly striving to further improve the standard and quality of catering service. A number of steps such as adoption of modern culinary techniques, use of modern kitchen gadgets and equipment and other electrical appliances, setting up of base-kitchens, procurement of raw materials and other ingredients from standard sources, training of catering staff in suitable institution*, etc. have been taken to

improve the quality of food and service. The performance of catering establishments both contractors managed as well as departmental is regularly watched and checked by Officers and Inspectors of Commercial and Medical Departments to ensure that the services provided to the passengers are satisfactory and defaulters are suitably taken up.

Functioning of Inter-State Transport Commission

533. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the role of Inter-State Transport Commission in Inter-State disputes regarding route permits has been negligible; and

(b) whether there are any plans to make the Commission more active and effective in its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) One of the functions assigned to Inter-State Transport Commission is to settle inter-State disputes and decide matters on which differences of opinion have arisen. As and when issues were referred to the Commission by the States, they were settled.

(b) With a view that the Commission functions more effectively, for performing its role in respect of preparation of schemes for development, coordination or regulations of operations of transport vehicles, the Commission proposes to undertake studies of utilisation of national and inter-State Permits; identification of annual demands for carriage of goods in respect of public sector corporations and suggesting to the Government about measures required for smooth flow of inter-State goods traffic.