

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) A letter has been received from Shri Samar Mukherjee, M.P.

(b) He has asked for relaxation of the stipulation that only those who have obtained a 'good' gradation in the Advanced Work Study Course will be eligible for selection as Work Study/Efficiency Inspector.

(c) Government consider that since the Work Study/Efficiency posts are not in the channel of promotion for staff of other Departments of the Railways, only those who have an aptitude for this work should be eligible for selection. Those who are graded as less than 'Good' will not be suitable for such posts.

GRANT OF TEMPORARY STATUS TO CASUAL LABOURERS

524. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any representation regarding the grant of temporary status to casual labourers engaged in relaying work in Tinsukia-Namrup section of North East Frontier Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard.¹

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The request is that casual labourers who have completed 4 months in relaying work should be granted temporary status.

(c) Relaying work is Project work. Casual labour employed on Projects are not eligible for temporary status but only for being paid wages at 1/30th of the minimum of the scale plus dearness allowance on completion of six months continuous service.

HOLDING UP OF A GOODS TRAIN

525. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 3rd November, 1974 about 100 miscreants held up a down goods train near New Alipur B. G. Station and took away 31 chests of tea;

(b) if so, whether there were any guards of the Railway Protection Force on duty with the train; and

(c) whether the culprits have been arrested so far and chests recovered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, at New Alipurduar Jn. station.

(b) No.

(c) 11 culprits have been arrested and 12 culprits are still at large. 19 chests of tea have so far been recovered.

IMPORT OF STEEL SHEETS BY COCHIN REFINEKY

526. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Refinery has imported Steel Sheets worth Rs. 1 -40 crores which were not actually needed for the refinery and those are now being offered for sale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) and (b) On account of stoppage of production of bitumen in Cochin Refinery, steel which has already been imported has become surplus. In consultation with the Government, Cochin Refineries Limited are exploring the possibilities of reducing the stocks of surplus steel by distribution among other users of bitumen drum steel

