

to state the steps taken by Government on the demand for nationalisation of Futwah-Islampur and Arrah-Sasaram Light Railways (M.L. Railway (by the users, employees and public institutions of the areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): The nationalisation of Futwah-Islampur and Arrah-Sasaram Light Railways has not been found to be viable.

CONDUCTORS IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

551. SHRI D. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased, to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 175 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th April 1971, and state:

(a) whether the General Manager, Northern Railway, has since implemented the directions of the Railway Board issued *vide* letter No. E (P & A) II-70 CPC/6 dated 30th March, 1971 in Northern Railway;

(b) what was the sanctioned strength of conductors in the Northern Railway in the three grades as on 24th March, 1965;

(c) whether all the conductors who performed duties in the grade of Rs. 250-380 since 18th July, 1964 have been paid their wages in terms of Railway Board letter dated 17th May, 1965; if not, the reasons for non-payment of due wages to them for the last over six years; and

(d) what are the names of the very important trains and the criteria adopted for classifying the trains as such?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, except in respect of three posts of Conductors in grade Rs. 250-380 now operated in Moradabad Division instead of at Lucknow.

Grade	Number of posts
Rs. 250-380	3
Rs. 205-280	14

(c) In terms of orders dated 17-5-1965, one more post in grade Rs. 205-280 (AS) was

upgraded to that in grade Rs. 250-380 (AS) with effect from 11-8-66 from which date the incumbent has been paid his salary in the higher grade of Rs. 250-380.

(d) Frontier Mail and Kashmir Mail are more important trains. No criteria has been laid down by the Railway Board. It is left to the individual Zonal Railways to decide.

EXPLOITATION OF FARMERS BY OFFICERS OF COTTON CORPORATION IN COLLUSION WITH CERTAIN TRADERS

552. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the Blitz dated February 5, 1972 to the effect that some officers of the Cotton Corporation of India have formed an unholy alliance with certain traders operating in the cotton belt of Punjab and Haryana to exploit the farmers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether any inquiry has been ordered by Government to this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The enquiries have revealed that the report is factually incorrect.

MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT BY THE ISLAM AND MODERN AGE SOCIETY OF CALICUT

525. SHRI C. GOPINATHAN NAIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Islam and Modern Age Society of Calicut, Kerala, had submitted a Memorandum to the President in December, 1970; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reforms in the Muslim Personal Law on aspects relating to Polygamy, divorce inheritance and Wala are sought for in the memo-

† Transferred from the 16th March, 1972.