

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. HANUMAN-THAI YA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

AWARDING OF HANDLING CONTRACTS AT ALLAHABAD DIVISION OF NORTHERN RAILWAY

668. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether any cases of malpractice indulged in by the officials on Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway in awarding handling contracts had come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken against the officials involved in the above cases; and

(c) if no action has so far been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) to (c) A complaint alleging irregularities in awarding goods handling contracts at Jhansi and Allahabad has been received. The matter is under investigation.

CHARGING OF FALSE CLAIMS BY TICKET COLLECTORS AND TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS OF ALLAHABAD DIVISION

669. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether enquiry ordered by Government in regard to false charging of Travelling allowance claims by the Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners of Allahabad Division in connivance with the Officers has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the names of Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners who have been detected to have charged false Travelling Allowance claims during the year 1967, 1968 and 1969 and what action has been taken against them to stop further leakage of revenue

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the staff have represented to the Director General (Vigilance), Railway Board to give them protection in view of the Eleven

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Point Programme against the revengeful attitude taken by the Commercial Officers; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) and (b) Enquiries are in progress. Action as necessary will be taken on completion of the enquiries.

(c) Letters requesting protection have been received from two members of the staff of Allahabad Division, apprehending victimisation.

(d) The position is under watch. Appropriate action will be taken as and when required.

SALE OF ARTICLES OF DAILY USE AT HUGE PROFITS

670. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of Parliament met him and brought to his notice that manufacturers make huge profits on articles of daily use, and handed over to him a list of 15 consumer articles;

(b) whether Government have examined the problem of rise in price of these articles;

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to declare these articles as essential commodities and fix their prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) A Member of Parliament met Minister of Industrial Development and Internal Trade and brought to his notice that manufacturers make huge profits on certain articles of daily use.

(b) to (d) The problem of rise in price of these and other articles and the question of declaring them as essential commodities, where they are not already declared are under constant review by the Government and action is taken as is considered necessary in the public interest.