

(b) if so, the details of the items which are in acute shortage and are likely to affect the production of goods meant for domestic and export purposes; and

(c) the details of the action that Government propose to take to meet the shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix LXXIV, Annexure No. 55]

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH STRIKE

*417. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether temporary railway employees, who were arrested and prosecuted in connection with the strike held on the 19th September, 1968, but since acquitted by the courts, are denied arrears of pay for the period of their suspension; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this discrimination as against the treatment given to permanent employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : (a) and (b) The services of these temporary employees were not suspended, but their services were terminated. They were put back to duty in pursuance of the general policy of the Government; and the period of their absence between the date of termination of their service and the date on which they were put back to duty has been treated as *dies-non* in accordance with the general decision of the Government. They are not, therefore, entitled to any wages for the said period.

In the case of Permanent employees, payment for the period of suspension, on account of arrest and prosecution, has been regulated in terms of rule 2044 of the Indian Railways Establishment Code Vol. II.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

*418. SHRI N. G. GORAY :
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under their study any alternative proposal to overcome the difficulties experienced in obtaining two-thirds majority in the two Houses of Parliament required for amending the various provisions of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the study has since been completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No., Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

आल इंडिया स्टेशन मास्टर्स एसोसिएशन की मांगें

*419. श्री राम सहाय : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विदित है कि आल इंडिया स्टेशन मास्टर्स एसोसिएशन के सेक्रेटरी ने एसोसिएशन की मांगों को मनवाने के लिए आत्मदाह करने का निश्चय व्यक्त किया है और यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ख) एसोसिएशन की मांगें क्या हैं और उन्हें स्वीकार करने में क्या कठिनाइयाँ हैं ?

†DEMANDS OF ALL INDIA STATION MASTERS' ASSOCIATION

*419. SHRI RAM SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Secretary of the All India Station Masters' Association has expressed his determination to commit self-immolation in furtherance of the demands of the Association and if so, what action has been taken in this connection; and

(b) what are the demands of the Association and what are the difficulties in the way of accepting them?]

† [] English translation.