

1-4-1960. The amount was increased to Rs. 6,125.62 with effect from 1-8-65 and again to Rs. 8,353.12 with effect from 1-12-1967.

(b) The Society asked for further increase in June 1968 due to increase in labour rates, but this request was not granted by the Northern Railway.

(c) The policy of the Railway Board is to encourage the formation of Labour Cooperative Societies of actual workers. In pursuance of this policy, work to such societies is provided without call of tenders upto an annual value of Rs. 1,20,000 and the rates in such cases are fixed by a Committee of Officers, taking into consideration all relevant factors.

WORLD BANK LOAN FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

276. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought for a \$ 40 million World Bank loan for the Indian Railways during 1969;

(b) if so, the projects for which such assistance has been sought;

(c) whether a World Bank team recently visited India in connection with these projects; and

(d) if so, the results of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH):

(a) Yes. The Government had approached the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank for a credit of \$ 40 million.

(b) The foreign assistance has been sought mainly for the import of components and materials for manufacture of diesel and electric locomotives and electrical multiple unit coaches for modernising traction and for the import of equipment, components and raw materials for overhead electrification Signalling & Telecommunication Schemes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The World Bank Appraisal Mission completed the study by middle of March, 1969. It is too early as yet to get the Bank's/I.D.A's response to our request for the credit.

ELAYA PERUMAL COMMITTEE

277. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Untouchability headed by Elaya Perumal has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the broad features of the report; and

(c) the action taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE [DR. (SMT. PHULRENU GUHA): (a) and (b) The Report has been received. A copy of the Report is being laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(c) The recommendations made in the Report are being examined in consultation with the State Governments and other authorities concerned.

MISUSE OF RAILWAY LABOUR AND MATERIAL BY RAILWAY ENGINEER

278. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Senior Engineer Railway Electrification, Kanpur was reported to have recently used a large amount of railway labour and railway material from the railway stores of an Inspector of Works working under him;

(b) whether it is also a fact that although complaints were made by the workers who were thus made to