

been appointed. Mr. Chandy has taken over on 29th May and the Deputy Chairman is also in position and we are in search of three functional Directors.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government if one of the reasons for the failure of the public sector, in particular the Durgapur unit, is the rivalries among the labour unions ? Similarly there is another desire of the labour not to fall in line as regards work force adopted by the feasibility studies. May I know whether the Government is going to stand strong in dealing with such elements which are not in national interests and which are hampering production in the steel sector ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Madam, it is true that the labour situation in the Durgapur steel plant particularly has not been very happy and it is on account of the inter-Union rivalries. It is also a fact that on account of the labour situation the production has gone down in Durgapur. We are now trying to see that the genuine demands of the labour are met sympathetically. With regard to the particular demand about work force it will perhaps be difficult for the Government and the management to accept their demand because in respect of the work force we have to go by certain scientific basis and if the demand is to put in a larger number of men when the actual production has not been gone into, it is difficult to accept the demand.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : For filling up posts some minimum criterion is laid down. May I know what is the minimum criterion laid down and what are the conditions for filling up posts in the Hindustan Steel Ltd.?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Madam as far as the appointment of the Chairman is concerned it is the general administrative ability that has to be taken into consideration and it is from that point of view we have selected Mr. Chandy.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if it is not wrong on the part of the Government to blame labour for the losses suffered by the Durgapur steel

plant whereas the fact is that the Government has not been able to appoint a General Manager for that plant for the last one year because the General Manager whom the Government wants to remove refuses to go cut and the Government are helpless in the matter? There is no General Manager and no management of the plant at Durgapur and in the circumstances it will be very wrong of the Government to blame labour and the inter-Union rivalries.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Madam, the Durgapur Steel plant has a General Manager now. Gen. Wadhera has taken over as Director-in-charge.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He is not the General Manager.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : He is the Director-in-charge. Because of the difficulty and the case in the High Court filed by the former General Manager we could not appoint a General Manager as such but a Director-in-charge has taken position. It is also true that there are certain technical difficulties which have been found out by the Pande Committee. At the same time it is also very true that the labour situation in Durgapur is not happy.

VIGILANCE WORK BY SENIOR DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGERS OF RAILWAYS

*298. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Zonal Railways, Senior Deputy General Managers also look after the vigilance work;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the Senior Deputy General Managers have been detected to have indulged in corrupt practices themselves;

(c) if so, the number of such Senior Deputy General Managers, Zone-wise who indulged in corrupt practices during the last 5 years; and

(d) the nature of corrupt practices indulged in by each of them and the action taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH) : (a) Yes, The Senior Deputy General Managers on the seven major Zonal Railways and Deputy General Managers on the remaining two Railways (North Eastern and Northeast Frontier) have been designated as Chief Vigilance Officers who look after the Vigilance work.

(b) to (d) Complaints were received against two Chief Vigilance Officers of the Zonal Railways, one in the year 1966 and other in 1967. On investigation, the allegations against one of them were not substantiated and the case was closed in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. As regards the other officer, the allegations refer to irregular promotion/appointment of two employees. The allegations have been investigated by the Vigilance Directorate of the Railway Board and the question of initiating action against the officer in the light of the report and the Central Vigilance Commission's advice thereon is under consideration.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : May I know from the hon. Minister when the Central Vigilance Commission sent its Report and whether the Commission has recommended major penalty and if so whether the S. D. G. M. has been suspended and if not the reasons therefor?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: The matter has been investigated and the report has been sent to the Central Vigilance Commission for their advice and in their advice they have suggested the imposition of certain penalty on the particular officer concerned and the matter is under consideration of the Railway Board.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : First of all, I am very sorry and I can only say that the Minister is not giving full information. I have asked him when the report from the Central Vigilance Commission was received by the Board and whether the Commission had recommended major penalty to the Board. If so, why has not been the SDGM suspended? He has given a roundabout reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please give specific answers to questions.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: The advice from the Central Vigilance Commission was received in the month of January, 1968 and they have suggested the imposition of penalty against this particular officer. As I have already stated, the matter is under consideration.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: From January to August 1968, it is still under consideration.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : These are certain administrative officers and it is only six or seven months now.

(Interruptions.)

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: My hon. colleague has indicated that the Central Vigilance Commission has suggested initiation of proceedings as for major penalty—not imposition. May I make that correction? It is initiation of proceedings as for major penalty and as regards a major penalty proceedings, the Central Vigilance Commissioner will have to appoint a Commissioner for departmental enquiry. It is their responsibility. They will appoint a Commissioner.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Why have they not appointed him?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : On that point I have to collect information.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : My next question. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that this very Senior Deputy General Manager, who was detected to have indulged in corrupt practices, is at present working as the Principal of the Railway Staff College, Baroda and, if so, whether the Government is aware that the appointment of such a corrupt officer as the Principal has affected the morale, discipline, reputation and integrity of the trainees?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: What has come to light is perhaps a matter of administrative irregularity, for which action has been suggested and is being initiated. Now, it is not one of such cases where suspension is called for.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Why the suggested action has not been taken up

till now and now eight months have gone by?

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मेरा यह निवेदन है कि जैसा अभी माननीय सदस्य ने बतलाया कि एस० डी० जी० एम० को दूसरी जगह नियुक्त कर दिया गया है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सेन्ट्रल विजिलेंस कमिशन की रिपोर्ट के बाद कि उनके खिलाफ सीवियर एक्शन इनीशियेट किया जाय, उसके बाद भी उनकी नियुक्ति क्यों की गई? क्या इस प्रकार सीवियर एक्शन इनीशियेट करने के मार्ग में, रेलवे बोर्ड इस संबंध में बाधक नहीं बन रहा है। मैं इस संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी से स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। इसके साथ ही यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि कमिशन एपाइन्ट करने के बारे में आपने रेलवे बोर्ड को इस संबंध में लिखा है या नहीं लिखा है।

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: As explained earlier, when the Central Vigilance Commission advises initiating action as for major penalty, certain procedures will have to be gone through. After the appointment of a Commissioner, he will go into the whole case and frame charges. This is the position. So, the matter is between the Railway Board and the Central Vigilance Commission and very early action will be taken to see that proceedings are initiated. As for the other question that this officer has been posted as the Principal of the Staff College, Baroda, since there have been certain administrative irregularities found against him due action has been taken. On the Railways we have no other position to offer him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When was he posted?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: He was posted sometime in 1967, if I am not wrong. (Interruptions.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now. I think we have had enough. Next question

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : No. This is a matter of a corrupt officer. We will not allow it to go like this. (Interruption.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I myself have told the Minister that he must expeditiously go into the matter. (Interruption.). Can you say when he was posted to Baroda? Was he posted during these months?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: As I said, it was some time in 1967. I will get the information and furnish it.

श्री राजनारायण : एक आफिसर जिसके खिलाफ भ्रष्टाचार का आरोप है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

श्री राजनारायण : मिनिस्टर गलत उत्तर दे रहे हैं और एक भ्रष्टाचारी आफिसर को बचा रहे हैं और आप सप्लीमेंटरी करने नहीं दे रही हैं।

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Madam, on a point of order. My request, through you, is that it should be made clear. Is it a case of corruption or irregularity? If it is a case of corruption, then the delay is unpardonable. If it is a case of irregularity, then some time may be given.

श्री राजनारायण : नवाब साहब आप नहीं पुन रहे है तो हम क्या करें ?

SHRI A. C. GILBERT : The Principal should be removed from there. (Interruptions.).

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH : May I explain the position? The Central Vigilance Commission, in the year 1966, passed on to the Railway Board certain information received from a certain Member of Parliament.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House wants to know what you have done from January 1968 up till now. (Interruptions).

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: It is not a case of corruption. It is a case of administrative irregularity.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: It is alleged that he has accepted bribe. . .

SHRI RAJNARAIN: On a point of order. . Administrative irregularities will lead to corruption.

मेरा एक प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है और वह यह है कि एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव इरेगुलरेटीज में करप्शन छिपा हुआ है। क्या एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव इरेगुलरेटीज से करप्शन पैदा नहीं होता है ? इसी से आज करप्शन पैदा हो रहा है और ऊपर से नीचे तक सराबोर है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do. Now, I do not want any more explanations. You say that you were going into it, whether it is a case of corruption or not and you have to appoint a Commissioner to find it out. The House is not satisfied with your answer.

SHRIMATI LALITHA RAJAGO-PALAN : May I know from the hon. Minister what he means by irregularities? Can he explain the word 'irregularity'?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : It has been explained that there have been certain promotions made at class III officers' level and in respect of those promotions it is now alleged that they were done irregularly.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: The hon. Minister said that he has committed certain irregularities, that at the time of promotions those irregularities were committed. Is it not likely that those irregularities were committed because he accepted, as has been alleged by Mr. Gilbert, some bribe? An open charge has been made and why is he not being charge-sheeted?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Therefore, proceedings are being initiated to establish the motive for making these irregular promotions. It is being gone into and action is being initiated as for major penalty. That fact itself is based on a prima facie conclusion that there is some irregularity.

(Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: This concerns the working of the Vigilance Department and, therefore, kindly let us have a "Half-an-Hour" discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : For a "Half-an-hour" discussion, you must send notice. Anybody who wants it, must send notice. You must not proclaim it on the floor of the House.

JESSOP AND CO. LTD.

*299. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: t

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI-TALWAR:

CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arbitrator appointed to determine the prices of the stock of Jessop and Co. Ltd. has submitted his report:

(b) if so, whether Government have already acquired the stock held by private sector;

(c) what are the current quotations at the stock Exchanges for these shares:

(d) when the Arbitrator was appointed and what was the expected time-limit for his work:

(e) what is the amount so far spent by Government for the entire arbitration proceedings including, allowances for the arbitrator, rent for premises, fee for legal consultants etc.; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the private residence of the arbitrator houses the offices of the parties of Jessop and Co. Ltd. as well as of the Government Solicitor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS KSHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH):

(a) No, Madam.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri R. P. Khaitan.