

licensing system in the country and let anybody do anything including manufacturing the small car?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Those suggestions are before us and we shall see what can be done.

SHRI D. THENGARI: The statement says that the Committee has to submit its Report within six months. Probably, it may take some more time. Are we to presume that the introduction of the Bill which was referred to in reply to an earlier question would be dependent upon the submission of this Report? Or even before the Report is submitted, the Government will introduce the Bill?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The introduction of the Monopoly Bill will not depend upon the submission of the Report of this Committee.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know from the hon. Minister regarding item (iii) of the Resolution whether it is not a fact that the Company Law Board and also the Finance Ministry have made some sort of a study about this question and they have come to the conclusion or that they have enough indication that all these credit institutions including the foreign agencies have favoured one particular group of industrialists in this country and, if so, will they indicate what has been their finding of their preliminary studies?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have not got the result or the recommendation before me. It is not possible for me to say about it now.

IRREGULARITIES IN RESERVATION OF SEATS AND BERTHS AT BOMBAY CENTRAL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that serious irregularities regarding reservations of seats and berths on trains have been detected at Bombay Central

covering a period of last two to three years;

(b) whether the irregularities also involve setting up of unauthorised reservation quotas in the hands of officers;

(c) if so, whether senior officers of the Western Railway are involved in the irregularities; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. C. JAMIR): (a) Yes, Sir; certain irregularities have come to notice.

(b) The irregularities do include an element of setting up of unauthorised quotas by certain officials.

(c) Some officers of the Western Railway have figured in the investigation.

(d) Action as necessary will be taken in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. The Western Railway has been advised to guard against similar irregularities occurring in future.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister the number of class I and II officers and class III employees involved in this case separately?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: The officers of the Western Railway who figure in these cases are one Deputy Commercial Superintendent, one Divisional Commercial Superintendent, one Assistant Commercial Superintendent and the Station Superintendent of Bombay.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: I wanted separately the break-up of class I, class II and Class III officers.

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: I do not have it with me.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: May I know, Sir, whether they are all class I officers?

SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH: Two of them are class I officers and the rest are class II.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: May I know from the hon. Minister whether all the officers involved in this serious case have been transferred so that they may not be able to exercise their influence in any way; if not, why not?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: The Divisional Commercial Superintendent has been transferred.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: Sir, some time ago at an informal meeting a proposal was made that in order to minimise the irregularities in the matter of reservation of berths a list of all the reservations made so far should be put up on a public notice board and should be made available to the general public? Was that proposal accepted by the Government and whether any follow-up action was taken in that direction?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Sir, the reservation list is put up in a prominent place on the main railway stations for the information of the people who have sought reservation and got the reservation made. This notice is put up in a prominent place for the benefit of all the travelling public.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी यह डिटेक्शन काब हुआ और इसको हुए कितना समय हो गया ? जिन लोगों के विरुद्ध अब तक कार्यवाही नहीं की जा सकी, उस का क्या कारण है ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Sir, this case came to the notice of the authorities concerned in 1965. The matter was taken up for investigation. Complete investigations and the defence of the officers concerned against whom charges were framed have now been collected and passed on to the Central Vigilance Commission because in the matter of Gazetted Officers the final decision is taken by the Central Vigilance Commission to whom the entire case has been referred. They

will indicate the necessary action to be initiated in this regard.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether he recalls the allegation made by me in this House that a reservation racket is going in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras and since the racket in Bombay has already been unearthed, may I ask from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to set up an enquiry to find out the facts about reservations in Delhi, Calcutta and Madras too, because my own doubts are that a bigger racket is working at these three places?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Constant vigilance is maintained and we are on the look-out. If such rackets exist they will be certainly located and suitable action taken.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister to throw some light on the mechanics of these irregularities? Does it concern only booking, making bogus reservations? In the case of bogus reservations a person has to pay a penalty. May I know if the officers have paid the penalty in such cases? Or, do these irregularities refer to booking money on the counter for effecting reservations?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Actually in the answer furnished we have said about the *modus operandi* that is adopted in these matters. In furtherance of that information I might say that certain irregularities of the following order have come to our notice. If I have the permission I would like to read out or pass it on to the hon. Member. May I read out?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: They are:—

- (i) Issue of several slips for provision of accommodation resulting from cancellations for persons chosen, ignoring the waitlisted persons.

(ii) Permission given to travel in an unreserved manner to certain persons in coaches, where reservation was obligatory.

(iii) Issue of orders for issue of journey tickets by trains for journeys, which are expressly prohibited by these trains.

(iv) Creation and operation of certain presumptive quotas and provision of accommodation for persons of choice in pursuance of this operation.

(v) Interpolation of the names of persons of choice in the entries made in the reservation/waiting list registers.

These are the various things that have come to our notice.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: After the information which I wanted has come in reply to Mr. Mani's question, I would like to know whether any preventive steps have been taken to see that such things do not recur apart from transferring the Divisional Commercial Superintendent.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Due action has been taken. And the power that was exercised by a certain class of officers has been withdrawn and it is now vested with senior enough officers who alone would be able to decide about the quotas. The power now rests with officers concerned for providing seats for V.I.P.s at a very short notice. The system of registering the demands for reservation and then getting reservation on priority basis remains, and to the extent the quotas are to be operated, that quota discretion is being given to officers of the Division concerned.

श्री राम सहाय : श्रीमान् से क्या मैं यह जान सकूंगा कि जिन अधिकारियों को इस तरह के अधिकार दिये गये हैं वे किन सिद्धांतों के आधार पर दिये गये हैं ? क्या श्रीमान् के नोटिस में यह बात भी आई है कि कुछ दलाल अधिकारियों द्वारा काम करते हैं और इस तरह से बेजा फायदा उठाते हैं ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Such irregularities have come to our notice. There is also a racket of cornering seats by a certain class of people who operate on the sale of tickets. We have taken care to verify the names of persons who have secured reservation. The Railway have even adopted the method of writing to them separately to ascertain whether they have reserved such accommodation for travel on a particular date, and then follow it up by various checks. Wherever reservations appear to be not *bona fide*, immediately action is taken to cancel such reservations.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: May I know from the hon. Minister if the system of computers could not be introduced whereby the services of all these officers could be dispensed with? If I want a ticket I put the money and draw it out.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: That suggestion is worthy of consideration.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या श्रीमान से यह जान सकूंगा कि रेलवे बोर्ड खुद ब खुद सब से बड़ा रैकेट है और उसकी जांच करके रेलवे बोर्ड को भंग करने की वृत्ता करेगे ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: This point has no relevance to the question.

SHRI RAJNARAIN: This point has got every relevance.

रेलवे बोर्ड और रेलवे मंत्रालय इतने जबर्दस्त करारशन से भरे पड़े हैं कि मैं उसके बारे में सब कुछ बनना सकना हूं अगर आप इस बारे में ध्यान में अलग से विवाद की इजाजत दें और तब मैं इस बारे में सारे फेक्ट्स एण्ड फिगरस आपकी खिदमत में पेश कर सकूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Send the facts to the Railway Minister.

श्री राजनारायण : जब नीचे से फाइल आ जायेगी तब मन्त्रा जी उसी को देखेंगे। नीचे से जो फाइल आ जाती है, वह खुदा की वाणी हो जाती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write to him.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Sir, in the case of Class III and Class IV employees I have seen that the Government takes immediate action. When they are convinced, immediately in a week's time or the next day they are suspended. Whereas this case being an old one and when the Government is convinced, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why these Class I and Class II officers were not suspended. Secondly, the hon. Minister of State mentioned about only one transfer. I wanted to know whether all the officers, Class I, Class II and Class III, involved in this, have been transferred and, if not, why not.

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: Sir, as I was explaining in the case of gazetted officers, after having the case investigated and after the evidence has been collected, the whole case is passed on to the Central Vigilance Commission for their guidance. In respect of Class III officers, the concerned Railway itself has the power to deal with the matter. Secondly, so far as transfer is concerned, a *prima facie* case is established against the officers and in one case, transfer has been ordered. Anyhow, all the informations have been passed on to the Central Vigilance Commission for their advice.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister whether he is aware or is not aware that as far as the question of disciplinary proceeding are concerned, the disciplinary proceedings to all intents and purposes are the same for the gazetted and non-gazetted officers and gazetted officers of the rank of Class I and Class II can also be suspended pending enquiry and pending submission of the charge-sheet. It is a misleading reply, if I may say so, on the part of the Railway Minister that in the case of Class I and Class II officers, they cannot be suspended though Class III and Class IV officers can be suspended under similar circumstances. Will the hon. Minister clarify the position?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: On this point, the question is why they have not been suspended. I would look into this matter because I myself felt that probably such a course should have been adopted. That matter is under my consideration. But in regard to the Vigilance Commission who decide as to what proceedings should be adopted as for the major penalty or for minor penalty, their advice has to be sought.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: The racket has been going on for the last two years, as admitted by the hon. Minister himself, in cheating the public of their money. And when officers are involved in this, the Minister comes forward and says 'we will look into this question of suspending them.' When this is going on for the last two years and when, as he has also admitted, they have been charge-sheeted, why have they not been suspended? Will the hon. Minister give a categorical assurance here and now that they will be placed under suspension, if they have not done so already?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: That is not possible. But the fact is that they have been charged with irregularities (*Interruption*) and their defence has been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

CUTTING DOWN OF JUTE PRICES

*240. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the extent to which the manufacturing costs of jute goods have been cut down as a result of recommendation made by the National Productivity Council to raise the competitive strength of jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House?

STATEMENT

Some mill groups were devoting urgent attention to measures intended to reduce manufacturing costs even before the report of the National Pro-