

and discuss the matter to find out their views?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are constantly meeting various representatives and the assurances that were given in the past, they were substantially met and we have placed on the Table of the House our stand in regard to these assurances and our stand is what I stated earlier.

SHRI ML P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether the orders of the Railway Board are binding on all the Railways, whether they become operative from the date they are issued, or is it the pleasure of each Railway to implement them as and when they like?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: There is no question of working in the manner the hon. Member has suggested, because here on the Railways everybody and all the Railways work very seriously.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: On the Railways the position now is that Assistant Station Masters of one year's service will get Rs. 154 and a Station Master of 10 or 12 years' service will get Rs. 162. Will this anomaly be reconsidered so that justice is done to all the seniors?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As I have stated earlier, the position is like this. The revision will give benefit of Rs. 6-40 per month on the average to each employee in the scale Rs. 130—225—those whose pay is fixed in the scale Rs. 130—240 will start on Rs. 150—and Rs. 13-10 per month on the average to each employee in the new scale of Rs. 150—240—which has been abolished with effect from the 1st April 1964—on the fixation of pay in the scale Rs. 205—280.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The hon. Minister said that some juniors may lose and also that a new incumbent will get Rs. 150 whereas an employee of 2 years or 4 years' standing will also get the same scale. So, may I

know from the Government whether they will in some way compensate this loss by making some sort of lumpsum payment to these employees?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This matter has been very carefully considered and I have explained that despite every sympathy that we may be able to show in this respect, there is a little difficulty and we have tried to cover these difficulties as far as possible.

#### SANCTION OF CONTRACT TO SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES BY RAILWAYS

•101. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contracts and their approximate value sanctioned to small-scale industries units by the Railways, during 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64; and

(b) whether any preference was given to these small-scale units by the Railways in sanctioning these contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAO SINGH): (a)

Value of the con- Year	No. of con- tracts	tracts placed	(in lakhs of Rs.)
1061-62	9,373	229-89	
1962-63	10,395	210-70	
1963-64	9,964	271-68	

(b) Yes. Price preference upto 15 per cent is given on the merit of each case, as and when an occasion arises.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether in the view of the Government the performance of the small-scale industries units has improved in quality and efficiency?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As will be obvious from the figures that I have just given, the value of the contracts has increased during the last three years. So to that extent we can say that there has been some increase in their performance.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Broadly, what is the nature of these contracts that are given to these units?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: They are for smaller things, because all these heavy materials which we have to purchase, they are purchased generally from big manufacturers or from foreign countries, I mean things like locomotives etc. The smaller items purchased exclusively from the small scale industries units in 1963 number 63 and, if you permit me, I can place a list on the Table of the House. For instance, it consists of brass padlocks, G.I. padlocks, boxes made of metal etc.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if any preference price is given to things bought from these small scale industries units and, if so, to what extent is this preference given?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: A 15 per cent, preference price is given.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Has it been brought to the notice of the Railway authorities that in Calcutta, at Howrah, where nearly 100 small-scale units used to be—I would not say favoured—given contracts by the Railways in Howrah region but now in the Howrah region they have been deprived of these contracts resulting in closedowns of small-scale units. Has this been brought to the notice of the authorities?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Naturally, I cannot say anything off-hand, but if they had been illegitimately deprived of it—I do not believe it would have happened—we shall look into the matter.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: May I know whether the supply of spare parts

and tools is given by contracts to these small-scale industries units and, if so, why is it that the position of spares and tools is deteriorating in the Railways day by day?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: So far as spares are concerned, if they are in a position to manufacture the spares required by the Railways, then naturally we would prefer them but I do not know what kind of spares the hon. Member is having in his mind.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Many units are dependent on getting contracts from the Railways and hundreds of crores of rupees worth of contracts are given but from the statement of the hon. Minister it is found that contracts worth only two crores of rupees are given to the small units. May I know from the Minister whether he will consider transferring some more items from the large-scale to these small-scale manufacturers so that these small units could at least survive?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are giving contracts to these small-scale units whose names have been forwarded to us by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: May I know whether Government would encourage these small-scale manufacturers in the competitive market against the big industries so far as pig iron, steel and other chemical items are concerned?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That is precisely the point for which a fifteen per cent, preferential treatment is given in regard to the prices.

#### **THEFT OF STORES FROM RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT PAREL**

•102. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of railway stores, particularly copper and electrical materials, are being stolen and taken out of the Western Railway Workshop at Parel (Bombay); and