

metre gauge or broad gauge these light railways or narrow gauge railways will have to continue.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Is it a fact that in some of the foreign countries, the railway lines are so laid in triple lines that the metre gauge carriages can be run on broad gauge lines or the broad gauge carriages made to run on the metre gauge lines?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We too have mixed gauges but the mixed gauges always produce difficulties in operation. Both broad gauge and metre gauge trains can run on them. We have such lengths of mixed gauge. But they have not been conducive to producing the maximum operating results.

*183. [*The questioner (Shri J. V. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1430-1431 infra.*]

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF HEALTH MINISTRY PERSONNEL

*184. **DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND:** Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons proposed to be re-employed under the Health Ministry in the near future and what is the number of persons who have actually been re-employed during the last six months;

(b) what are the details as regards their names and age;

(c) how many of these persons have had more than one extension of the period of service;

(d) what are the special reasons for re-employing these persons; and

(e) whether these posts were advertised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) No person has been re-employed under the Health Ministry during the last six months. No decision has been taken in the matter of re-employment of any officer under this Ministry in the near future.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

*185, *186 and *187. [*For answers vide cols. 1426-1430 infra.*]

*188 [*The questioner (Shri G. V. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer vide cols. 1431 infra.*]

†ACTION TAKEN AGAINST RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNDER REVISED RAILWAY SERVICES (CONDUCT) RULES

*188-A. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which action has been taken against railway employees under the revised Railway Services (Conduct) Rules 1956;

(b) the nature of action taken and the rules under which such action was taken; and

(c) the number of cases in which permission to contribute articles to newspapers or magazines was asked for by the employees and the number of cases in which such permission was (i) granted and (ii) withheld?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See Appendix XV, Annexure No. 49.*]

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: In the statement, I find that no action was taken against any one in the North Eastern Railway. May I know under what rules the Secretary of the North Eastern Railway Mazdoor Union was punished and dismissed from service?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: That is a specific case, Sir, and I should like to have separate notice for it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: As regards the other cases, it is mentioned in the statement that in some cases, action was taken under Rules 13 and 14. Will the hon. Deputy Minister

† This question which was unstarred Question No. 31 has been transferred from the list of questions for written answers for the 21st November 1956.

throw some light on these Rules because I do not have the Rules with me at present?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, some of these Rules relate mainly to people who are prosecuted for indebtedness.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR. For indebtedness?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes.

INSUFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRUCKS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

*174. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of trucks owned by Government in Himachal Pradesh is insufficient to cope with the amount of business during the potato season in Mahasu; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that privately owned trucks are engaged for the purpose; and if so, on what terms?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The owners of the private trucks are paid 75 per cent. of the gross earnings and 25 per cent is kept by Government to cover expenses incurred in procuring business etc.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: May I know why permits are refused to co-operative societies? Certainly they have no trucks, but the permits are refused.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: There is a State Transport Authority there and it is their job either to issue or refuse permits. The Ministry of Transport has nothing to do with it.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: Since this is a Union Territory, I think the Ministry of Transport should know why permits are refused.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, a Committee was appointed and one of its recommendations is that any person who can guarantee a minimum of 1,500 maunds of goods may be given a permit as a private carrier. Of course, that recommendation has not yet been fully accepted. But we hope it will be accepted.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is aware that there are co-operative societies which are handling more than three or four lakh maunds of potatoes, but they are not given permits for trucks?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I am very glad to know that the co-operative societies are doing so well in Himachal Pradesh, and I hope they will receive due encouragement now.

HIMACHAL PRADESH TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*175. SHRI C. L. VARMA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Himachal Pradesh had appointed a Transport Advisory Committee in March 1954; if so, who were its members and what were the recommendations of the said Committee; and

(b) whether any action has been taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee; if so, what?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes Sir. Copies of the Committee's report have been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Himachal Pradesh Administration.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

*173. SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (ON behalf of SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY):