

(i) *Apex Banks*—

Delhi and Himachal Pradesh—6
per cent,

(ii) *Primary Societies*—

Delhi and Himachal Pradesh—
9/3/4 per cent.

Manipur—24 per cent.

Tripura—6½ per cent.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: May I know, Sir, whether the rate is 24 per cent, in Manipur?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, it is a fact.

SHRI P U R N A CHANDRA SHARMA: Why is it so high?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There are peculiar circumstances, but we are organising the Apex Bank very soon and then the rates will go down.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: How could the rate be so high?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Because they could not get any credit for less than 18 per cent.

SHRI C. L. VARMA: Is it a fact that the rate of interest in other States is much less than in the Union Territories and, if so, why?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It has been the constant effort on the part of the Reserve Bank also to see that the least possible rates should be charged to the people who have not been able to organise these Apex Banks in this part of India.

SHRI G. RANGA: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to see that although the Reserve Bank of India is advancing credit at a rate less than 3 per cent., the Primary-Banks are able to advance it to the peasants at not more than 6½ per cent., and to see that this discrepancy is reduced as far as it is possible?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is largely as a result of our efforts that the rates have gone down considerably and we are aiming at 6½ per cent, everywhere. In some cases it might be 6 per cent, as is the case in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI G. RANGA: Is it not a fact.

Sir, that the Primary Banks, have been charging especially in Madras and Andhra only 6½ per cent, for a number of years and in the meanwhile, only in the last two years, the Reserve Bank has brought down its lending rate and in spite of it the cultivators are not getting any benefit?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not concerned with Madras now, but only with Manipur.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: 6½ per cent, is not the interest charged by the Central Bank. It is the interest payable by an ordinary primary member of a Bank.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know what steps Government is taking to see that a uniform interest is charged by the Primary or Apex Banks when giving loans?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In accordance with the policy of giving advances by the Reserve Bank at low rates, it has got to be worked down by the primary members because they have been charging high rates previously. It cannot be done all of a sudden. We are in that process.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether there has been any complaint from Hyderabad?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not concerned with Hyderabad.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: We are trying to set up the same pattern of co-operative organisation all over India, that is, each State must have an Apex Bank, and then there would be a Central Bank and Primary Societies would be organised on the same basis. We are further cutting down the expenses of administration so that the rate of interest is brought down as much as possible.

RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES CANDIDATES TO THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

•179. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of the posts of (i) Guards; (ii) Ticket Examiners; and (iii) Assistant Station Masters recruited in each railway zone in the years 1954 and 1955 from the Scheduled Castes candidates; and

(b) whether any of these posts was reserved for the Scheduled Castes candidates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XV. Annexure No. 47.]

(b) Yes, posts of Guards were reserved. No direct recruitment is made to the posts of Ticket Examiners and Assistant Station Masters.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, May I know what is the percentage of reservation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: For examinations conducted through the Union Public Service Commission and for those recruited through the Railway Service Commissions, the reservation is 12½ per cent. And for all other recruitments, the reservation is 16-2/3 per cent.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: It is not clear to me from the statement. The reservation there is far below. It is only 2 to 6 per cent, in some cases. If so, what measures is the Government thinking of adopting to see that the Scheduled Castes people get their due representation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is true that the full quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes has not been filled up. Government has taken certain steps to make sure that that quota is filled up in future. The most important step is that the unfilled quota is carried forward to the next year. If in one year we cannot fill up that quota, that number is carried forward and we try to fill up that quota during the next year. If through open competition we do not find efficient number of

men, then we are thinking of holding examinations exclusively for the Scheduled Castes. And may be, we will accept slightly lower standards.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the number of applications to the Railway Service Commission is nearly four to five times the number of vacancies of the Scheduled Castes people?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, as I just now submitted, we are prepared to accept slightly lower standards.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: When the South Eastern Railway has given in 1955 as much as 333 per cent in regard to guards, may I know why the other railways have not done the same thing? Is there any special reason for that?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Carried forward.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: May I submit, Sir, that on that Railway three persons were recruited and out of those three, one happened to be of the Scheduled Castes.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: And in the others?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One out of the three.

SHRI G. RANGA: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that in regard to other people, slightly lower standards might be accepted. Now, why not the benefit of that be given to those candidates who came lower in the order of marks in the examinations held recently so that they might be benefited, because they have already gone through the usual procedure of the formalities and then appearing for the examination and all the rest of it?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I might explain, Sir . . .

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Is there any relation between lowering the standard of efficiency and the accidents that are taking place in the railways?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Too far-fetched.

*[S0.[For answer vide cols. 27 infra.]

SALE OF BOGUS RAILWAY TICKETS

•181. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state the number of persons (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted for selling bogus railway tickets in each railway zone in the years 1954-55 and 1955-56?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XV, Annexure No. 48.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know the amount involved in the sale of bogus tickets?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, it is stated in the statement. The number of persons involved, as the hon. Member would observe, is only five and the amount is not likely to be large.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: No, no. It may be that you have arrested two or three people. That is, only two or three are involved and not more.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: That is what has come to our notice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When this has come to their notice, they have arrested some persons. Also, may I know whether the Government was able to find out where these bogus tickets were printed and what the nature of the tickets was?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Some of the persons who were caught had changed the date on the ticket. And another case is that the manufacture of these tickets was detected in

Calcutta. The case is now under the investigation of the police.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is any of the accused absconding, Sir?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: There is one accused. He was released on bail by the court. If he is absconding, the Railways are not responsible for that.

MANUFACTURE OF NARROW GAUGE LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

♦182. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under consideration for the manufacture of narrow gauge locomotives in India; and, if so, at what stage the proposal is at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): For the present, the capacity is fully taken with the building of broad gauge and metre gauge locomotives.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that there was a Committee appointed to go into this question of starting the manufacture of narrow gauge locomotives and certain types of wagons? What are the recommendations of that Committee and may I know whether the Government has accepted them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think that any Committee went into the question of manufacturing narrow gauge locomotives. At present, we are concentrating on the production of broad gauge and metre gauge locomotives in Chittaranjan and in the Telco factory. The number of narrow gauge locomotives that will be required is small and so, it is thought that it would be uneconomical to make them in the country.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is it the policy of the Government to abolish narrow gauge lines altogether?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It cannot be stated that we are going to abolish them because in the absence of provision for converting them into either