

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: All of them were illegal.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any of the Railway workers' union supported these strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Behind the South Eastern Railway strike there was a union but that was not a recognised union.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know whether any legal action has been taken against people who were responsible for promoting these strikes and who were indulging in these strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When people go on illegal strikes, there are certain consequences which follow. Their service gets cut and the pass and other privileges are stopped. And they can get these privileges in the normal course only after one year of service is completed.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know how many people were dismissed or sent out of service on account of their activities in these strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think anybody was sent out of service. Many of them who engaged themselves in violent activities etc. have been arrested by the police; a large number of them have also been let off. Proceedings in the court are pending with reference to some others.

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : کیا ذریعہ منسلک
صاحب یہ بتانے کی تکلیف کریں گے کہ
اسٹریک کے زمانہ میں مزدوروں کی مزدوری
سے جو رقم بچی اس میں دیاوے کو
کئی بچت ہوئی؟

†[مولانا ام. فاروقی : کیا آنرےبل
مینسٹر صاحب یہ بتلانے کی تکلیف کریں گے
کہ سٹریک کے زمانہ میں مزدوروں کی مزدوری سے
جو رقم بچی اس میں ریلوے کو کتنی بچت ہوئی؟]

श्री लाल बहादुर : यह खुदी की बात तो
नहीं है मगर जो रकम बची उसको बताना इस
समय मुश्किल है ।

†Hindi translation.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is it not in the national interest to take a more strict view of indiscipline due to illegal strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes; that has been brought to our attention much more in the recent past than before. Usually when the workmen go on an illegal strike for a few hours or so, it has been the practice to condone the break in service and restore the privileges etc. Now the Government has decided to take a more stringent view of the position because indiscipline has been on the increase.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: What steps does the Government propose to take to stop these illegal strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, we have made it quite plain to the leaders of the union as well as to the workers that the consequences flowing from these illegal strikes will have to be borne by them and they will not be condoned as was the case in the past.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Will it not be desirable to have a reserve of servants so that the work may proceed even though the strike is there?

(No reply.)

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Do the Government adopt a police attitude or a conciliatory attitude—I mean the railway authorities—in dealing with these illegal and unlawful strikes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In fact we never adopted a police attitude. We would not like to adopt a police attitude but it has been our experience unfortunately that the uniformly conciliatory attitude that the Ministry has been adopting has given rise in some quarters to a serious misunderstanding of the whole policy of Government and serious acts of indiscipline and violence were committed. And this has to be put down.

BLANKING OFF OF ALARM CHAIN APPARATUS

♦238. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alarm Chain apparatus has been blanked off on certain trains on the North-Eastern Railway in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what was the effect of the same; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to end this blanking off of the Alarm Chain apparatus ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Yes.

(b) Reasons being frequent and mischievous use of the apparatus resulting in dislocation of train services.

(c) This will be considered when there is reasonable assurance that normal condition will prevail.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know in what way this stopping of trains was utilised by those persons ? Was it for ticketless travel or was it for something else?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It was for all purposes. Ticketless travellers also resort to this sort of alarm chain pulling and get away before being caught; also large groups of mischievously inclined people indulge in this. I do not know the purpose. The practice is really a harmful one.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Is it a fact that sometimes when these ticketless travellers want to get down, they pull the chain and quietly slip away ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That was what I said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what he said.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: With regard to (b) how many cases were there of such mischievous use by passengers or otherwise ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am sorry to say that these have occurred on a very large scale in North Bihar and South Bihar. Taking one railway, namely, the North Eastern Railway, out of 10,979 alarm chain pullings 9,120 happened to be in North Bihar in 1954. In 1955 the number increased to 11,255 and the share of North Bihar was 8,873. Not at all creditable.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA : Were all these cases in Bihar alone or were they in the other parts of the Railway also ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The small remainder goes to the "credit" of other places.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the trains arrived at the scheduled times in the stations after these alarm chain pullings ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: One of the causes for the arrivals and departures of trains being unpunctual has been ; this large indulgence in alarm chain pullings and with its removal, certainly | punctuality should improve. |

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The hon. Minister said that ticketless travellers and mischief-makers were responsible for this and that ending of this blanking off of the apparatus will be considered when a reasonable assurance is given that normal condition will prevail. May; I know from whom was this assurance expected ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think my hon. friend did not understand the answer properly. I said that they would be considered when there was a reasonable assurance that normal conditions prevailed,

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Which is the next Railway which comes nearest to the North Eastern Railway in regard to misuse ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Eastern Railway in which South Bihar predominates.

SHRI IASWANT SINGH: Is this the policy which Government is going to adopt of removing the chains on all Railways because of their experience on one Railway ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Because on these sections we experienced large-scale alarm chain pullings of an unauthorised character we took this extreme step. We have not done it with a light heart. We would not like to extend this sort of remedy to other sections. Fortunately in other sections we do not have any large-scale incidents of these alarm chain pullings.

SHRI IASWANT SINGH: What is the alternative that the Government has in view if a train has to be stopped in the case of an emergency?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The train crew and the guard have been asked to be more vigilant.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: How will the guard be more vigilant when the train is in motion ? If in case of an emergency some passengers want the train to be stopped, what is the alternative to stop the train?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Obviously there is not much of an alternative.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: How would the Government understand that normal conditions have been restored?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: My friend ought to wait and see.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: How many cases were there in Assam of this nature ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not have the figures.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: Have the Government any scheme to keep detectives in some of the compartments of these Railways and then to find out the offenders and punish them very severely ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is a new suggestion. We can consider it.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if this blanking off of alarm chains is done in all compartments, or are they still there in any compartment ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We have not blanked them off in the ladies' compartments.

STEPS TAKEN TO CHECK RISING PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS

*239. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to check the rising prices of food grains in the country; and

(b) whether any consumer co-operative societies have been started to regulate the prices ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Government of India have taken the following measures to check the rising trend in prices of foodgrains in the country:—

(i) total ban on export of rice and other foodgrains;

(ii) stoppage of purchase of food-grains by Government in internal markets;

(iii) issue of rice and wheat through fair price shops set up by the State Governments;

(iv) issue of wheat freely from Central stocks in important centres; and

(v) restriction on advances by Scheduled Banks against stocks of rice and paddy.

(b) Existing co-operative societies are given preference and their services are utilised wherever available for the distribution of foodgrains.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Has Government any scheme for starting consumer co-operative stores ? What happened to the particular scheme which Government contemplated with regard to the Delhi State ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That scheme is proceeding fairly satisfactorily.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Has Government been able to locate any special localities where these anti-social elements indulge in raising the food prices repeatedly ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is difficult to locate them. I do not think there is any particular spot where we can say they are more than anywhere else.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: How far has the Government purchase of foodgrains last year in order to check the prices of foodstuffs been responsible for raising the prices of foodstuffs this year ?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Government purchased some rice for the Army and for Kashmir, and that gave a spurt to the rising prices. It was subsequently controlled. Afterwards we made no purchases, and I think that that price has been maintained.