

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another suggestion.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the hon. Minister aware that many of the ex-State Railway officers who were directly recruited and who are fully qualified—some have even foreign degrees—have been regraded to Class II even though they worked for a number of years as gazetted officers?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is so and that matter is being considered in connection with the question of the ex-State Government servants.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: At present some of these officers are working in Class II and Class III. May I know what their position is going to be vis-a-vis the freshly recruited Assistant Engineers when they are made permanent?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The hon. Member will come to know about it only when our decision about which I have just now said will be announced.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I am only talking about these officers. When they have advertised these posts and when they are taking about 50 officers they must have come to a decision so far as these officers are concerned, and am I to understand that this is the sort of concession which is being given to the ex-State officers?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Let the question about the ex-State employees be decided first as to what would be their fate. When that has been decided then shall we be able to take a decision vis-a-vis these temporary engineers.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: It is absolutely obvious that these officers have got to be Class I officers. So am I to understand that all the ex-State Railway officers will definitely be Class I officers?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: No decision has so far been announced about the ex-State officers. As the hon. Member

said, they are in Class I as well as in Class II and he himself now suggests that all these temporary officers should be placed in Class I. One has to judge the suitability and other things even in regard to these temporary officers and then alone final decision taken.

RESERVATION OF WAITING ROOMS FOR AIR-CONDITIONED TRAFFIC

*667. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answers given in the House on the 14th April 1955 to my Starred Question No. 650 and the supplementary questions put thereon and state:

(a) whether the question of reservation of waiting rooms exclusively for the use of passengers travelling by air-conditioned coaches raised by me in those questions has since been investigated; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the investigation?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): (a) Yes.

(b) One of the waiting rooms at Abu Road station on the Western Railway had in error been marked as for Air-conditioned Coach Passengers, and the error has since been set right.

*668. [For answers, vide cols. 5221 23 infra.]

*669. [For answers, vide cols. 5223 24 infra.]

*670. [For answers, vide cols. 5224 26 infra.]

INCREASE IN STEAMER FARES

*671. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether the investigation in the complaints regarding increase in the Steamer Fares between Calcutta and places in Assam has been completed?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : Yes. The report is under preparation.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: This question regarding the Increase of fares was raised about two years back and then it was said that the matter was under consideration. May we know how long more they will take to decide the question?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I think the hon. Member is somewhat wrong in his statement. This committee was set up only in March 1954 and now the matter is not under consideration but the report is under consideration.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The committee might have been set up last year, but the complaint is old. The representation was made to the Government more than two years back for reduction of steamer fares and still now no settlement has taken place. That was what I meant to say. And now there is the question of shipping companies asking for more freights and more fare, and the Government also is likely to consider it favourably I am given to understand. Even 50 may I know whether the steamer fares between Assam and Calcutta will be reduced or will they get no relief?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The hon. Member is confusing two things. The increase in freight which has been asked for is by the coastal shipping companies, not these steam navigation companies. We are not at all concerned with the increase in freights which they might have suggested somewhere; they have not written to us.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I am only speaking about the steamer fares between Calcutta and Assam. Will that not come under the scheme of increase in the fares demanded by the coastal shipping companies?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: These are companies. I am talking of coastal shipping which is separate.

*672. [For answer, vide cols. 5226-28 infra.]

*673. [For answer, vide cols. 5228-30 infra.]

*674. [For answer, vide cols. 5230-31 infra.]

*675. [For answer, vide cols. 5231-33 infra.]

*676. [For answer, vide cols. 5233-34 infra.]

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION AGAINST P. A. AND T. OFFICIALS

*677. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to paragraph 2 of the Audit Report (Posts and Telegraphs) Part I of 1955 and state:

(a) whether any departmental action has been taken in the case reported in the said paragraph; and

(b) whether the officials responsible for the fraud in the case are now in service; and if so, where and in what capacities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The culprits were convicted in connection with other frauds committed by them and dismissed from service.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether administrative action has been taken against the other people?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: My answer is clear—"dismissed from service".

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: But the other people?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not understand the question.