

running of services were received which were attended to as best as could be possible keeping in view the available capacity of the services and the prevailing weather conditions in the valley and over the Banihal.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how many times such a position arose when newspapers could not be taken?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It was on a number of occasions—may be about 4 or 5.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that letters were not carried?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That happens when due to bad weather the aircraft does not find it possible to reach the destination.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if there had been any cases when the passengers were stranded in Jammu?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We don't have control over the elements and if the weather is bad over the Banihal Pass the service stops at Jammu and we cannot proceed to Srinagar.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: In those cases what happens? What is done about taking those passengers to Kashmir as soon as the weather clears?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The next available service is utilized for that purpose provided there is accommodation.

EX-STATE RAILWAY OFFICERS

*662. 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 Starred Question No. 629 and the supplementary questions put thereon and state whether the orders expected to be issued by the end of May 1955 in respect of the Ex-State Railway Officers referred to in those questions

have been issued and if so, what are those orders?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The matter being of importance and likely to have repercussions on other than the Railway Services, inter-departmental consultations have had to be held, which has taken time. It is expected however, that final orders will be issued shortly.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know what new difficulties arose after the hon. Minister stated in this House that the matter would be decided by the end of May?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: After the budget discussions it was decided by us to refer the matter to the U.P.S.C. and they have advised that as additional concessions to ex-State Railway officers may have direct repercussions on ex-State officers absorbed in other Ministries, the Home Ministry might be consulted and we have referred the matter to the Home Ministry and are awaiting their reply.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know whether, when the matter was referred to the Union Public Service Commission the entire record was sent, including the memorandum submitted by the Members of Parliament and the reports submitted by the Chief Secretaries of the various States so that the U.P.S.C. might get a full picture of the whole thing?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I am not aware if all those papers were sent, but the U.P.S.C. said that they were not prepared to go into these cases themselves.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: In his reply to the question the hon. Minister said that the delay in settling this question was due to the possible repercussions on the ex-State employees in other departments. May I know whether this question as far as it relates to ex-State employees in other departments has not already been resolved?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: They might have been resolved but it is possible that the concessions we propose to give to the ex-State employees of the Railways might be somewhat more than what the other employees have got in other departments. Therefore, the matter had to be referred to the Home Ministry.

SHRI H C. DASAPPA: May I know, Sir, why the hon. Minister is using the term "concessions" in this connection? Is not the whole question one of giving a fair deal and not one of any concessions?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

SHRI H C. DASAPPA: May I know if the benefits that these ex-State railway employees would get as per finalisation would take effect from the date of integration?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is a matter which will have to be decided later on.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, if these concessions, which have been referred to, proposed for the officers of the ex-State railway employees are of such a nature that they can be extended to the employees in other categories of the ex-State Railways?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: That is for the Home Ministry to decide.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Have the Railway Ministry any opinion on it?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: We can express no opinion on the matter now. The matter has been referred to the Home Ministry and it is for them to examine every aspect of the matter.

SHRI H C. MATHUR: Have the Railway Ministry come to any final conclusion in this matter or not and also when was the matter referred to the Home Ministry?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not remember the date on which it was

referred to the Home Ministry, but I think it was referred to them recently. We have of course, come to a final decision.

SHRI H C. DASAPPA: May I know, Sir, whether the Home Ministry had already suggested a certain procedure for the purpose of equating these posts, but the Railway Board definitely took it out of their purview and wanted to deal with it themselves?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not know of the past history. But I think what we are doing is with a view to—I shall not use the term "concessions"—to be more helpful to the ex-State Railway employees.

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS FOR REFRESHMENT ROOMS

*663 **DR SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state—

(a) the usual term of notice and the period of notice actually given to contractors whose catering contracts have recently been terminated before expiry of the period of their contract; and

(b) at how many stations where catering contracts have been surrendered to Government on 1st April 1955 Government have started departmental catering?

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

(a) Generally, the term of notice is 3 months in the case of Refreshment Rooms and one month in the case of vending contracts.

No contracts have recently been terminated at a shorter notice than provided for in the Agreement.

(b) Nil.

DR SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: When the contracts are supposed to be renewed at the end of the financial year and since about 18 stations in addition to the two—Ratlam and Mehsana are going to be affected why was not longer notice given to the parties, especially since the Kunzru