

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not remember to have had such a representation.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But I have got a copy here of the representation which has been sent to the Railway Ministry.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, it might have gone to the Railway Board and I am prepared to look into that. If the hon. Member so desires, he can pass on that copy to me.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Is the hon. Minister aware that some time ago there was a strike in this railway and also that employees are also threatening now to go on a long-period strike in view of the low salaries paid to them ranging from Rs. 23 to Rs. 45 and that it is necessary in the interest of the business of the place that Government should do something in the matter and keep this railway line running?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Well, we have to consider all these things. But whether we should have that railway or not is a question which will have to be decided after we have received the report from the General Manager. It is also just possible that the Railways might decide to construct a new railway line altogether, may be broad or metre-gauge.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Has the hon. Minister considered that in the circumstances any financial assistance may be of no use and may only entail Government in further loss?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I cannot say that unless we have looked into that further.

STRIKE BY THE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AT BOMBAY

*502. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway employees at Bombay went on a token strike recently; if so, why; and

(b) the steps, if any, taken by Government to meet the demands of these employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Government understand that certain demonstrations were conducted on 27th August 1954 at Bombay by the National Railway Mazdoor Union and that large numbers of staff of certain establishments in the headquarters area of the Central Railway stayed away from work to participate in the demonstrations. As regards the reasons for the demonstrations, it is understood that the unions held the demonstrations mainly as a protest against what they regarded as the unsatisfactory working of the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and also certain other alleged grievances.

(b) These are under discussion with the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen.

VICTIMISATION OF LOWER GRADE STAFF IN THE P. & T. DEPARTMENT

*503. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Uttar Pradesh branch of the All India Postmen and Lower-Grade Staff Union regarding the victimisation of the lower grade staff stationed at Lucknow during the years 1953 and 1954; and

(b) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ-BAHADUR): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under examination.

श्री एन० बी० देशमुख : क्या किसी एक पोस्टमैन को लखनऊ में १ जनवरी