

Government make enquiries in the matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

SHRI ABID ALI: If some evidence is produced of course.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Is the Government aware that an enquiry has been launched against the union workers who unearthed this scandal and procured these documents and they are being dismissed by the management? And if so, will the Government give these persons some protection?

SHRI ABID ALI: Of course, whatever they deserve.

*669. [For answer, vide col. 6140 infra.]

PAYMENT OF TAXES OF LOCAL BODIES BY THE RAILWAYS

*670. SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Administration have not yet paid the taxes levied on their properties by some of the municipalities in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the settlement of the amounts due to those municipalities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). The Railway administrations have been paying whatever taxes they were liable to pay before 26th January 1950 at the rates in force before that date. Taxes demanded by municipalities in respect of new properties or at higher rates in respect of old ones are not being paid in the absence of permissive

legislation as required by the Constitution. But even in these cases the Railway administrations have instructions to pay for specific services rendered under a contractual arrangement.

(c) Government have since devised a formula on the basis of which taxes to various municipalities should be paid and the issue of necessary orders is now under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance in consultation with other Ministries concerned.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, may I know the names of the municipalities in West Bengal to which the Railway Administration have not yet paid their taxes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, there may be many municipalities. I do not have the list of such municipalities just now.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know Sir, whether the hon. Minister means to say that all the municipalities in West Bengal are not being paid the taxes?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this is a general question which covers the Central Government property situated all over India.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know how many representations have been made by the municipalities in West Bengal?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: The hon. Member is perhaps referring to the Darjeeling Municipality about which she had spoken to me also. We are still looking into that matter.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: The hon. Minister referred to contractual services. May I know what those contractual services are? The municipalities render services. Does the hon. Minister mean that they have rendered services periodically?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They cover services such as water-supply, lighting, drainage etc.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: But they will be once and for all. How could they be on contract basis? Does the hon. Minister mean the rates for contract services?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We pay for the services by entering into agreements with the local authorities or State Governments.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to article 285(2) of the Constitution? May I know whether Parliament has by law authorised exemption from all the taxes imposed by the States or local authorities?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: After the Constitution came into effect, no such permissive legislation has been possible, and hence the decision was taken that we should pay for these services. Before the Constitution came into effect, there was an Act under which notifications were issued and these payments were made.

OVERHAULING OF RAILWAY ENGINES

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

(a) the number of railway engines which require overhauling immediately but are not being overhauled on account of the shortage of engines;

(b) the names of the places in India where railway engines can be overhauled; and

(c) what is the annual overhauling capacity of all these workshops?

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

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Places where overhaul is done	Engine	Approximate annual overhauling capacity
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Central Railway

Parel	}	415
Lallaguda		
Kurduwadi		

Western Railway

Dohad	}	287
Ajmer		
Jaipur		
Udaipur		
Gondal		
Morvi		
Jamnagar		
Bhavnagar		
Junagadh		
Pratapnagar		

Eastern Railway

Jamalpur	}	750
Khargpur		
Kancharapara		
Nagpur		

North Eastern Railway

Gorakhpur	}	260
Izatnagar		
Dibrugarh		

Southern Railway

Golden Rock	}	360
Perambur		
Hubli		
Mysore		

Northern Railway

Charbagh	}	260
Saharanpur		
Ghaziabad		
Bhatinda		
Ludhiana		
Jodhpur		
Bikaner		
Kalka		

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are the engines overhauled properly in the workshops, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that so many times v/e hear complaints about the failure of engines in India?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. We are having a number of overaged