

fixed for the loss on account of negligence in the performance of duties or in the observance of the rules, punishment is awarded that way also that is, departmentally.

DR. P. C. MITRA: In the case of punishment, may I know whether the amounts stolen or misappropriated were realised from the culprits?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: If responsibility is clearly fixed, steps are taken to realise the amounts involved in part or in full.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Have the postal authorities been prosecuting these people through the normal agency of prosecution? And, is it desirable to have a separate prosecution staff for the postal department?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes. Probably in prosecution under the law we have not been confronted with any particular difficulties so far apart from the proverbial "delays of law."

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the loss more on rural side or on urban side?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I haven't got that break-up.

CONFIRMATION OF CLASS III AND IV EMPLOYEES ON THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY

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

(a) whether a number of clerks on the Southern Railway have not been confirmed against permanent vacancies which occurred after the 14th April 1951, due to the non-finalisation of the combined seniority lists of staff;

(b) how long it will take to confirm these clerks;

(c) whether there are a number of other class III and class IV employees in that railway zone who have put in five years and more service but have

not been confirmed; if so, what is their number; and

(d) what is the probable time likely to be taken to confirm these employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. But orders have since been issued to confirm staff in the initial recruitment grades against permanent vacancies. Confirmation against vacancies in higher grades is awaiting finalisation of combined seniority lists for the entire Railway.

(b) Confirmation in higher grades will have to await the preparation of the seniority lists which will take some time.

(c) Yes. Information regarding the exact number of such staff is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) This is subject to the availability of permanent vacancies and no time limit can be indicated.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is the number of vacancies after the 14th April 1951?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot give the exact number.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: For how long has the finalisation of combined seniority lists been pending before the Government? Is it for the last five years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir; after regrouping took place—just two years or less than two years back,—Committees for all Railways were constituted and they were asked to go into the question. Their reports were received some time back. And then the Board finalised the principles on which these lists were to be combined. They are now in the process of preparation and special officers also have been appointed for the preparation of these combined seniority lists.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Admittedly, the Government have taken about two years by now. How long will it take to confirm these employees?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not think it will take very long.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: People with five years' or ten years' service are also not made permanent. How long will it take to make them permanent?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Their confirmation will depend upon the occurrence of permanent vacancies and the creation of additional permanent posts. The Railways have also been asked to create additional permanent posts. With reference to the pre-1945 staff, the Railways were asked to create supernumerary posts and confirm these people.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Am I to understand, Sir, that the staff in Class III and Class IV has remained temporary for more than five years due to inefficiency of the administrative staff?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He repudiates that suggestion.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government will confirm those persons who have been acting in higher grades for the last two or three years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Their confirmation in higher grades will have to await the preparation of the seniority lists. As soon as the seniority lists are ready, they will be confirmed in the higher grades. Now they have been confirmed in the initial recruitment grades.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: May I know how the seniority list will be prepared?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the principles have been laid down and the lists are being prepared on the basis of those principles.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is it a fact that temporary service is the root cause of corruption?

(No answer.)

UNIONS OF THE CHITTARANJAN "LOCOMOTIVE WORKS EMPLOYEES"

*40. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answers given to my supplementary questions arising out of starred question No. 312 asked on the 15th December 1953 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the strength of membership of the different unions of the employees of the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the said enquiry; and

(c) whether Government have arrived at any decision about according recognition to any of these unions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) to (c). The enquiry is still proceeding.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Employees' Union fulfilled all the conditions for recognition even in 1950?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, this question has been answered previously also on the floor of this House.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: This has not been answered.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Labour Ministry has asked their Conciliation Officer, Calcutta, to go into this question once again. He is going into the question of the relative strength of the various unions.