

DETENTION OF POSTAL PARCELS

*415. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the 1st October 1953, about 8,000 postal parcels booked for French territories in South India have been held up in Madras; and

(b) if so—

(i) the reasons why, and

(ii) the period for which, they have been so held up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) About 5,000 and not 8,000 parcels deliverable through Indian Post Offices in these Settlements have been so far detained.

(b) (i) For completion of customs formalities.

(ii) About six months.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the senders of those held-up parcels have made any complaint about such action and how those complaints were disposed of?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Not the senders but the persons to whom they are to be delivered have sent representations.

DR. P. C. MITRA: How were they disposed of?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Just by telling them that certain formalities have to be undergone.

PILGRIMAGE SPECIAL CARRIAGES

*416. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrimage special carriages which were given in the year 1953 to contractors;

(b) the rates at which and the terms and conditions on which the carriages were given in different railway zones;

(c) the total amount received from those contractors; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the railway authorities are not giving tourist bogies to these contractors on the Southern Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A total of 168 carriages, including 1st, 2nd and 3rd, were supplied during 1953.

(b) A statement showing the terms and conditions under which different types of carriages were allotted on all the railway zones is placed on the table of the House. [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 199.]

(c) Rs. 3,97,971-5-0 (excluding Eastern Railway).

(d) No.

C.P.W.D. WORKERS' DEMANDS

*417. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Public Works Department Workers' Union, Delhi, have requested Government to refer some of their demands to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication;

(b) if so, what are those demands; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a) and (b). The Central Public Works Department Workers' Union, New Delhi, submitted an application for reference to an Industrial Tribunal of a dispute on matters such as permanency of work-

charged staff, stoppage of retrenchment, grant of certain allowances, supply of tools, uniforms, etc.

(c) The Officers of the conciliation machinery are trying to bring about a settlement and Government are waiting to see the result of the efforts at conciliation.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know when the efforts of the Conciliation Officer are expected to come to a conclusion?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I cannot give a definite date, but very soon.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my hon. friend aware that these demands of the C.P.W.D. workers are as much as 8 years old?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I take the information from the hon. Member.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has my friend any information as to the fact why this demand that tools should be provided to the workers should come in the list of demands because this should have been provided without any demand being put to Government?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: The Conciliation Officer is going into all these matters and I shall place the result on the Table of the House.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FOR UNHEALTHY SURROUNDINGS

*418. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 439 asked on the 22nd December 1953 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the anomalies existing in respect of the grant of compensatory allowances for unhealthy surroundings to the employees at certain stations on the

North Eastern Railway has been completed; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to remove these anomalies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). No, the matter is under consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How long will the matter be under consideration? It is an old question.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This is a usual question, Sir, and I can only inform the hon. Member that we will be able to take a decision soon.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know the procedure which is being adopted to come to a decision about this matter, because these anomalies have existed for a long time and it is very strange that they should have come to exist at all.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are considering the matter in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, and we are also consulting the State Governments as to the areas in which they are granting this allowance for unhealthy surroundings.

EMPLOYEES OF THE EX-BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY

*419. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 168 asked on the 7th December 1953 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the question of joint seniority for the ex-Bengal Dooars Railway staff now employed on the North Eastern Railway has been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the conclusions arrived at as a result of the said examination?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). Yes,