

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, the hon. Member is correct.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Sir, was any part of the one lakh and forty five thousand rupees recovered from any accused?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have got many processes to pass through before that particular stage is arrived at.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Accounts Officers have got to deposit some cash security?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not quite sure about it, but I think ordinarily, as they are dealing with money and finance, they are asked to deposit some security.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: If you permit me, Sir, my point has still not been clarified. In the case of railway thefts we were told in this House that the establishment of a *prima facie* case depends on the opinion of the Home Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not say that.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Now, I want to know whether the Ministry of Communications referred the matter to the Home Ministry to know whether a *prima facie* case existed or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not say that.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The hon. Member knows that a departmental enquiry has got to take place to determine or to satisfy us whether a *prima facie* case exists or not. Unless that stage is passed through, the case will not be handed over to the police. After all, they are our officials and if they are innocent, we shall not let them be harassed.

BOOKING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BASKETS

•167. KUMARI SHOILA BALA DASS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh fruit and vegetable baskets are booked by passenger trains only;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government are aware that the baskets so booked arrive late at their destinations and that the fruits are stolen and damaged; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Fresh fruits and vegetable baskets are generally booked by passenger trains, although some bookings are made by goods trains also.

(b) Consignments of fresh fruits and vegetable baskets booked by passenger trains sometimes arrive late at destination. But it cannot be stated as a general rule that such delays are responsible for pilferages or damage to the consignments.

(c) Instructions are already in force on all railways to ensure quick and safe transit of all perishable traffic.

KUMARI SHOILA BALA DAS: Has any compensation been paid for these stolen fruit baskets?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, if it is established in the established way, compensation is paid.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY NIGAM: Is Government intending to appoint a caretaker to look after these things?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: The guard is always there.

I SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Watch j & Ward staff are expected to look I after these things.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Is Government aware that most of these delays are due to deliberate misdirection of these packages or delays at stations if the staff is not paid illegal gratification?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think I cannot either accept it or not accept it.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-SI AND: You can make enquiries about it, particularly with regard to packages from Kulu Valley.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If the hon. Member has got any specific instances in mind, certainly we shall enquire.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: If fruits are stolen by the railway authorities, do Government pay compensation and more particularly do they pay the freight to the sender of fruits?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the fruits are despatched and if they are waiting to reach the destination, they would be spoiled. Therefore, they help to prevent it.

EMPLOYEES OF THE EX-BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY

*168. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions under which the employees of the ex-Bengal Dooars Railway were employed by Government at the time of its integration with the Indian Railways?

(b) whether any representation has been made by the said employees drawing the attention of Government to certain difficulties which they are experiencing under the said terms and conditions;

(c) if so, what are their specific grievances; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). On the representation of certain employees, the Railway Administration have referred to the Railway Board the question in regard to the fixation of their pay in the Central Pay Commission scales by counting their service under the company, and their seniority *vis-a-vis* other staff.

(d) In regard to fixation of pay special treatment has been given to them by bringing them on to the post-1931 scales of pay of the ex-B.A. Railway before fixing them in the Central Pay Commission's scales of pay and in regard to seniority the question is under examination.

Statement

The terms and conditions offered to the ex-Company B. D. Railway staff are as under:—

(i) The B. D. Railway Company scales of pay continued to apply.

(ii) The service under the B. D. Railway was treated as continuous with Government service for the following purposes:—

(a) Calculation of length of service for Special Contribution to Provident Fund,

(b) Calculation of leave to be earned under Government Rules. (Leave Accounts of the staff were credited with such leave for which the company afforded credit in respect of leave salary to the Government).

(c) Eligibility for railway passes and P.T.Os.

(iii) The staff were allowed to be governed by the B. D.