

MR CHAIRMAN The Western Railways, he has said that

SHRI O V ALAGESAN I have already stated that, Sir The hon Member should try to listen

SHRI H C MATHUR Do not get touchy

CENTRAL BOARD OF TRANSPORT

*438 SHRI H C MATHUR Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the constitution of the Central Board of Transport,

(b) the dates on which the Board met in the year 1953-54, the proposals which were considered at these meetings and the decisions which were taken, and

(c) whether these meetings were attended by any representative of the Rajasthan Government, and if so, whether any proposals were made by him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O V ALAGESAN) (a) The Central Board of Transport consists of representatives of the Ministries of Transport, Railways, States, Defence Finance, Commerce and Industry, Production and Communications and representatives of State Governments co-opted as and when necessary

(b) The Board has not met in the year 1953-54 so far

(c) Does not arise

SHRI H C MATHUR Have you no projects under consideration at present and if you have any, how are they to be decided without this Board?

MR CHAIRMAN: Have you no projects under consideration at present and if you have any, how are they to be decided upon without the advice of this Board?—that is the question

SHRI O V ALAGESAN Sir, certain new projects—I think the hon Member has in mind projects of new railway construction—were placed before the previous meeting of the Board and it was generally agreed that the hon Minister for Railways will look into these projects and decide the priority

PROF G RANGA Why is it that the Board has not met for all these days and what is it that the Government proposes to do in order to see that this Board meets or that this Board is abolished and some other Board is appointed?

MR CHAIRMAN He says, "Why has not this Board met in the year 1953-54 so far?"

SHRI V K DHAGE There was no business.

PROF G RANGA In 1952 also

SHRI O V ALAGESAN Generally it meets once in a year

PROF G RANGA It met last 1952-53

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM There was a meeting last year

MR CHAIRMAN In 1953-54?

PROF G RANGA Sir, it is also going to end

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH There are still four months more.

COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON GROUNDS OF UNHEALTHY SURROUNDINGS

*439 SHRI S N MAZUMDAR Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to my supplementary question arising out of starred question No 163 asked on the 7th December 1953 and state:

(a) whether any compensatory allowance on grounds of unhealthy surroundings of certain sections of the North

Eastern Railway is paid to the employees in those sections;

(b) if so, the names of the sections in which and the basis on which it is paid;

(c) whether any employees posted at any stations in the same areas are excluded from the benefit of the said allowance;

(d) if so, the names of those stations and the reasons for excluding the employees posted at those stations from the above benefit; and

(e) whether Government propose to grant compensatory allowance to these employees also?

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

(b) A statement showing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, Annexure No. 143.]

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, is my hon. friend aware that employees posted in the stations, Siliguri, Gulma and Matigara which are also in the Terais are not allowed these allowances?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I can say about Siliguri, I think, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Yes, say about Siliguri.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These allowances have been fixed in consultation with the Railway Administration. I have given in the statement the sections on which these allowances are at present being paid.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: My question was

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Why are not Siliguri and other stations included?"

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: They are in the Terai and the employees are entitled to get the allowances.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There are many places including perhaps Siliguri for which the benefits of these allowances are.....

PROF. G. RANGA: Why so?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not a question of 'why so?' These allowances are given for bad climate and unhealthy conditions.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir, that is precisely my question. Why are not these stations also included?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Perhaps, Sir, they were not considered so bad as the others.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, is my hon. friend aware that the employees of the Central Excise and the Posts and Telegraphs Departments who are posted in the Siliguri area are granted some allowances on the ground of bad climate?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it has come to our notice that there are various anomalies existing in the grant of these allowances. We are considering the whole matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I know, why the employees posted in the Mal—Domohani section stations in the Duars section of the North Eastern Railway are not allowed the benefit of these allowances?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think, Sir, that this will also be taken up when we are reviewing the whole matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know how soon the consideration is likely to finish, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are considering the matter, Sir.