

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the question was gone into and, in September 1952, we sent very comprehensive instructions to the Railway Administrations to expedite these matters; recently, a Committee consisting of the Directors of the Railway Board also went into the question. We have issued instructions and I hope that they will be expedited.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in some cases the employees or their relatives are suffering a lot due to the delay in the payment of their dues?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, it is because of that that we want this settlement to be expedited.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether any cases are pending before the Court for the realisation of these dues?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I do not have any information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On this he will give the information to you.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Sir, are Government aware of such cases of employees of the North Eastern Railway who opted for Pakistan but did not go and whose provident fund and gratuity are yet to be settled?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think all those cases are included in this.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Some employees opted for Pakistan but did not go there. They remained here but their provident fund accounts were sent to Pakistan. Are they to receive the dues from the Pakistan Government or from the Indian Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, if their provident fund accounts have been settled with Pakistan, I do not see how we are bound to pay. I am unable to answer the question.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Will the Government think it over and find

out the position? They are Indian citizens now.

(No reply.)

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know why their provident fund accounts were transferred? Was it not because they opted for Pakistan?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: Yes, I have said that.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Would the Government like to give them the advantages of both the worlds?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They opted for Pakistan and, therefore, their accounts were transferred; they have settled in India now and they have become Indian citizens. So, why not settle their accounts?

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: The accounts are there.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: The accounts are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quite true, quite true.

PROSECUTORS AND PLEADERS FOR THE RAILWAYS IN DISTRICTS

*236. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration have their own pleaders and prosecutors over and above the legal personnel of the State Governments at district places;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for having this duplicate arrangement; and

(c) what expenditure was incurred by Government during the last year on account of the payments made to these pleaders and prosecutors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, pleaders, but no prosecutors.

(b) There is really no duplication as the services of Government pleaders retained by the State Governments would have to be paid for from Railway revenues for each railway case entrusted to them.

(c) Rs. 4,63,000 approximately to the pleaders.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Four lakhs?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Are these pleaders in the permanent employ of the Railways or are they paid according to the work they do?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They are paid according to the work they do, and according to a schedule we have.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Who makes the selection of these pleaders?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Railway Administration.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Are these posts advertised?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They are not advertised, Sir.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Are there any paid prosecutors that the Railways employ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No prosecutors, but they have got pleaders to appear in railway cases.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Are they employed in Bombay State, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Every railway has got its pleaders.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Are they permanent employees of the Railways?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What she is asking is whether the Railways have, in their permanent employ, pleaders? That is the question.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: There may be some, Sir, but I cannot give their number. Generally, they are employed on the basis of the work

they do and they are paid accordingly.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know the number of civil and criminal prosecutions that are launched by the Railways in an average district?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In an average district?

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I cannot give the information. I shall require notice.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Are there any magistrates, railway or otherwise, who sit in the railway premises to dispose of these cases of breach of regulations?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Ticketless travellers are being dealt with by these magistrates.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: In what places are they functioning in Bombay State?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Only in big stations, but I require notice.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, is there any period fixed for the pleaders appointed by the Railways in the manner that a certain period is fixed for the pleaders appointed by the State Governments, for instance three years or six years and so on?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is not the case with the pleaders that the Railways engage. Unless their work is unsatisfactory, they are retained.

SHRI GULSHER AHMED: How many civil cases were launched against the Railway Administration by the public and how many cases did the Railways lose?

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Now that there are Government pleaders for every State why does not the Government appoint them as pleaders for the Railways also?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is because we have got a number of cases and the Government pleaders are already perhaps full up with their own work and also the conducting of railway cases requires some acquaintance with the railway law which these pleaders have been able to get by their experience and that is the only reason.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Does not the Minister consider that when the Government pleader is selected after a great deal of scrutiny, he will be a better hand to conduct railway cases?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: He is appointed for a period and here we think continuity will be better from the point of view of the Railway.

RAILWAY FARE TABLES

*237. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fare tables contained in the time table of the Central Railway are checked periodically; if so, by whom and when; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the fares actually charged are more than those shown in the time table?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir, by the Commercial Department of the Central Railway, at the time of reprint of the time table.

(b) No, Sir, except when the booking clerks might have charged more by mistake.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Is it not a fact that the charges from Delhi to Poona and from Poona to Delhi differ and the actual charges taken are still different?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This matter was fully gone into in the correspondence between the hon. Member and myself. I have recently

replied to him explaining the position.

(Interruption.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Are these fares varied from time to time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you change the fares from time to time?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The question put by Mr. Deogirikar just now was not answered completely. The Deputy Minister said that something went on by correspondence between him and Mr. Deogirikar. The House should know what the answer is.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, a mistake was pointed out by the hon. Member. It was purely due to a misprint of the fares that the hon. Member was charged more than the correct fares. Arrangements are being made to refund the excess collected from that hon. Member.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: The hon. Member is going to be refunded the excess and that is all right. From how many other passengers were such excess fares collected and how many others suffered by this mistake?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had better make a representation.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Does this mean that the Government won't make any enquiry as to how many people suffered on this account, namely, on account of the excess fares charged?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Not at all. The excess fare collected from a passenger is certainly returned when a claim is made.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: How are the accounts maintained and how are they checked in cases like this?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The House knows the answer, Sir. The accounts