

during take-off is not so very satisfactory as compared with the manoeuvrability of the Dakota?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not think that is so.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he knows that such a comment was made in the press sometime back when they were grounded?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: My attention has not been drawn to it, I am sorry.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What are the normal flying hours of Dakota aircraft?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: 40,000 hours. It has been found to have flown as much as 40,000 to 60,000 hours in the U.S.A. and Australia.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: How many hours is it in the case of the Dakotas which our National Airlines have taken over.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The maximum hours flown by any of the Dakota Aircraft in India is 14,000 hours.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is it a fact, Sir, that further production of Dakota aircraft has been stopped?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir, that is so, but it is not on account of the question of safety of the Dakota aircraft but on account of the obsolescence of that type of aircraft.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Is it a fact that engine trouble is a matter of frequent occurrence on the service between Madras and Trivandrum?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, Sir.

FALL IN THE POSTAL REVENUE

*316. SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the public and from book-sellers and publishers in connection with the increase in postal rates on book packets and registration; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken on these representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) Yes.

(b) In view of the fact that the Postal Branch of the Department is running at a loss, Government do not consider it feasible to reduce the rates.

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Has the Government received from the Gita Press a representation showing that whereas their monthly average of expenditure on this account was Rs. 2,760, it is only Rs. 1,900 and Rs. 2,100 in May and June this year?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Expenditure on what?

SHRI V. S. SARWATE: Expenditure on registration and V. P. packages.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I do not know anything about the expenditure incurred by that particular institution which the hon. Member refers to but for the information of the Members of the House I may say that we did make a sample check-up of the traffic and in the course of that it has come to our notice that under the name of 'book packets' many things were passing, for example, samples and commercial communications, and these things taken together constituted as much as 90% to 95% of the total traffic under 'book packets'. As a matter of fact the 'book packets' as such constituted only 5 per cent.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is the Government in a position to state that

the postage paid on the 'book post' has increased after the rates have been raised?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR Naturally, as the rate has been raised from 9 pies to one anna from the 1st of July.

SHRI K C GEORGE. Is the Government in a position to say that the total collection of postage on book post has increased?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir, it has increased, the traffic has increased

SHRI K C GEORGE May I know what is the increase?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: In April 1952 it was Rs 18,812. In April 1953 it was Rs 20,056. In May 1952 it was Rs 18,455 and in May 1953 it was Rs 19,769, an increase of 7.1%. This is all for one day in those months of 1952 and for the corresponding day in the same months of 1953.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

STOPPING OF PUBLICATION OF SOME NEWSPAPERS OF CALCUTTA

No 6. **SHRI P SUNDARAYYA:** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the publication of three dailies of Calcutta, viz. *Times of India*, *Satyayug* and *Navabharat Times* was suddenly stopped from the 31st August 1953 by their proprietors, M/s Bennett Coleman Ltd.;

(b) whether it is further a fact that the proprietors gave no notice of their intention of stopping the publication of these papers to their 850 employees until the above date on which the closure notice was published in the last issue of each of these papers, and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter.

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) (a) Yes. The publications were stopped from the 1st September 1953

(b) Yes

(c) The dispute relating to the stoppage of publication of the three dailies and the consequent termination of employment of about 800 employees falls within the "State sphere". A report has been received from the Government of West Bengal that they have already referred to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication the question as to what compensation and/or relief and/or other dues the employees whose services were terminated with effect from the 1st September 1953 as a result of stoppage of publication of the papers are entitled to

Government have every sympathy with the workers who have been thrown out of employment without any notice and hope that the interests of the workers will not be ignored by the management

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR: Has the hon Minister any information to the effect that all employees of the concern without any discrimination or differentiation will be brought under the tribunal?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I think so, because the Government of West Bengal have asked the Adjudication Tribunal to go into all the matters connected with all people.

SHRI S N MAZUMDAR Is it a fact that all employees including those of the Editorial Department will also be put under the jurisdiction of this Tribunal?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I cannot be definite about it.

SHRI S N. MAZUMDAR Has the hon Minister any information whether any enquiry commission will be set up to enquire into the position of M/s Bennett Coleman Ltd to find out the motive and the causes behind this sudden closure of these papers?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I have no information from the West Bengal Government.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: After this incident does the hon. Minister not think that the working journalist should be declared as a working man as has been declared by their representatives?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: That aspect is being considered sympathetically by Government.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Is it a fact that the proprietors of these three newspapers had recruited employees as late as August this year and some of them had to report for duty on the 1st September?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I have no information, Sir.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know whether Labour falls exclusively under the States or whether it is also a concurrent subject?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: It is a concurrent subject.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: What is the scope and extent of the jurisdiction of the Centre in important cases like this where hundreds of employees are thrown out without any notice whatever?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: A State deals with those who are under their jurisdiction; the Centre deals with those who are under their jurisdiction.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Would it be desirable on the part of the Central Government to give such advice or direction as it thinks fit according to the cases that come under review to the State Governments concerned?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Always they do so if the State Government requires their advice.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: What is the total number of employees thrown out of their jobs who fall under the Factories Act?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I am not in a position to say.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Is it not a fact that journalists are not put under the category of workmen and they do not enjoy the privileges under the Factories Act?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: That aspect of the matter is being looked into.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: If that is a fact, what relief would the journalists attached to these three newspapers expect to get under the adjudication proceedings?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Let us wait and see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CLASS I AND II OFFICERS OF THE RAILWAYS

*311. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to paragraph 35 (iii) of his speech delivered while introducing the Railway Budget for the year 1953-54 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that the Class II Railway Officers who have been officiating in the senior scale for more than 3 years are not reverted; and

(b) whether Class I Officers who have been officiating in the senior scale for over 3 years will also not be reverted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Appropriate steps are being taken to give effect to the assurance given by the Minister.

(b) Officiating in the senior scale depends upon the vacancies available in that grade and reversion has to take place when vacancies cease. Within these limits, it is the intention that are rights of Class I officers