

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Do Government realise that this delayed action has a very demoralising effect on the public life, and may I know if any steps are being taken to have expeditious disposal and quick action?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I realise it fully—more fully than even my hon. friend—that it will have that effect and that it is an important aspect of the question.

PROF. G. RANGA: It is unfortunate that an impression is being created, or is created, that the chief villain of the piece for this delay is the Union Public Service Commission. I hope that that is not the intention of the hon. Minister.

DR. K. N. KATJU: Not at all. Please hear me. I have only said that we have to send the file to the Public Service Commission, and I cannot dictate to them that they must send their opinion to me by such and such date. They take their time; but I am taking it up informally with them to let us have their opinion with despatch. There is no such thing that they are the villain of the piece—nothing like that.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: May I know when final orders on the case regarding Shri S. A. Venkataraman, I.C.S. are expected?

DR. K. N. KATJU: Pardon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When is the final order expected on the case of Shri S. A. Venkataraman.

DR. K. N. KATJU: The file is with the Public Service Commission and as soon as we receive their advice final orders will be passed.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: To shut out all public gossip, is it not desirable to have early orders passed on this matter?

(No answer.)

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Do Government know if any I.C.S. officer has been reinstated after investigation, enquiry etc. and if so, have Government paid him his pay during the period of his suspension?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I require notice of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rahmath-Ullah?

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Supposing the officer has been under suspension for.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rahmath-Ullah is not present. Then Question No. 45 Shri Imbichibava.

REFUND OF LICENCE FEE OF THE Bidi MANUFACTURERS

*45. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the licence fees collected from *bidi* manufacturers in 1951 have all been refunded as later decided by Government; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, in how many cases refund has not yet been made; and what are the reasons for not making refund in those cases?

9 A.M.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) and (b). There were in all 32,019 cases of refund involving an aggregate claim of Rs. 14,58,311. Of these, refunds have been paid in all but, 2,158 cases valued at Rs. 88,485, by the 1st June 1953. Since that date, a further 1,100 refund orders or so have been issued so that the outstanding refunds at present are approximately 1,000 involving an amount of Rs. 43,000 in all.

The main reasons for the delay in the settlement of the outstanding refunds are—

(1) the whereabouts of quite a number of the licensees are not known; and

(2) the original licensees having expired in some cases, the question as to who the rightful claimants are is under correspondence with the authorities concerned and/or the licensees' representatives.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is the Government aware that due to the inordinate delay in making these refunds, people are put to great difficulties in Malabar, South Kanara and other districts?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The question is not audible Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks whether you are aware that on account of this delay many people in Malabar etc. have been put to considerable inconvenience.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, I have stated that out of 32,000 cases, only 1,000 cases are still pending and Government are taking every step to expedite the repayment of these dues.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: It is more than two years since the order regarding this refund was made.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: But when Government is not able to get the whereabouts of those claimants, how can Government make the repayments? Government have taken every step. In fact, they have even waived some of the ordinary audit formalities, also so that the payments may be made quickly and extra staff has also been engaged to expedite the work.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Is it a fact that certain individuals made specific applications to Government stating that the amounts have not been refunded? And have Government taken any steps in regard to those applications?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: As far as I can see, no individual petitions have been kept unattended to, and I think Government have taken every step to make the payments. If the hon.

Member can bring any such case to the notice of Government, I will take every step to dispose of it as early as possible.

SHRI K. B. LALL: How many manufacturers in Bihar got this refund?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: In Patna Circle, the total of original claims was 2,482, of which only 135 are pending; and I think even out of these 135 quite a large number have since been cleared i.e., orders having been passed for their payment.

SHRI K. B. LALL: Have they all applied for it?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I cannot say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIVILEGE TICKET ORDER CONCESSION

*30. SHRI RAHMAT-ULLAH: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS please refer to starred question No. 179 answered in the Council on the 3rd March 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Privilege Ticket Order concession recommended by the Central Pay Commission to the Central Government employees has not yet been given effect to;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) are allowed free railway passes for themselves and their families; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this discrimination among the Central Government employees?