

SHRI A SREEDHARAN : The report was finalised and it should have been placed on the Table. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. SPEAKER : There are certain papers which are purely with the office and on such matters the hon. members can get information from me. Why do you confront me here as if you are confronting the ministers sitting here? After all, this is a question pertaining to the Order paper. (*interruptions*).

In spite of best efforts, we are not able to cover more than four questions. What is the use of having a Question Hour? Why not have a regular debating time? I tried to regulate it, but I could not. Every time the hon. leaders in the opposition ask me to increase the number of questions. Do you think it will be possible? You render me completely helpless. (*Interruptions*).

Question Hour is over. Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Service of Warrant on Station Master, Dhrangadhra for attachment of Railways Property

S. N. Q. 3 **SHRI R. K. BIRLA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that a salt merchant of Dhrangadhra near Surendranagar Railway station got a warrant served on the Station Master, Dhrangadhra for the attachment of all properties at the station to realise a decree of Rs. 1,008:

(b) Whether it is also a fact that the salt merchant secured the decree against the Railway authorities 18 months ago but the authorities did not take notice of the same:

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) the action taken by the Railway Administration in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI) (a) It is a fact that a warrant for the attachment of the Railway property at Dhrangadhra station, namely

chairs, tables, wall clocks, hard cash and other articles which the Plaintiff could show was presented on 28.1.1970 by the bailiff, at Dhrangadhra Station on behalf of a salt merchant of Dhrangadhra for the realisation of a decree of Rs. 1005 and Paisa twelve.

(b) The decree under reference was secured by the merchant on 12.7.1968, but remained unsatisfied till 5.2.1970 due to utter negligence on the part of the Railway.

(c) A consignment of 145 bags of salt booked from Kuda Salt Siding to Kawapur, a station on the North Eastern Railway, failing to reach destination, Messrs. Prashant & Company lodged a claim therefor on the North Eastern Railway. The claim was not entertained by the Railway as the Original Railway Receipt, the Original Beejuck and a Disclaimer letter from the consignee of the consignment were not furnished. Thereupon Messrs. Prashant & Co. filed a suit against the Railway for recovery of the value of the consignment in the Court of Civil Judge, Dhrangadhra and this suit was decreed against the Railway on 12.7.1968 for Rs. 750 with costs plus 6 per cent running interest from the date of filing of the suit. The Western Railway had to satisfy this decree, but, due to inattention in the Railway's Claims Office, the decree remained unsatisfied till a warrant for execution of the decree was issued. When the bailiff appeared for attachment of Railway property at Dhrangadhra station on 28.1.1970, the Station Master made an application in Court seeking one month's time to satisfy the decree. This application was accepted and finally the decree was satisfied on 5.2.1970.

(d) An enquiry by Senior Administrative Officers was ordered immediately after this case came to notice. The report of the enquiry has just been received and is under scrutiny. The enquiry committee has held six officials as well as the Railway Advocate responsible for dereliction of duty in this case. Stringent action will be ensured in this case.

SHRI R. K. BIRLA : The attachment of one's property is the last thing that one would like to have in his life. It is supposed to be the greatest humiliation for anyone. The hon. Minister has admitted that there has been gross negligence on the part of the

railways in allowing the merchant to go to the court and get a decree. Still, for a long period of eighteen months the railways did not make the payment. So, I want to know firstly why this matter was not mutually and amicably settled especially when the railways know that the party was going to the court to get a decree ?

SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI : In the detaild reply I have just now admitted that it is the fault of the railways.

Shri R. K. BIRLA : In that case, what action have you taken against the persons who are responsible for this ?

SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI : That also has been mentioned in the reply. Immediately on receipt of this information an inquiry by high officials was ordered and their report has just been received. Certiation officials have been held responsible and stringent action will be taken against them. Fully realising that the fault was with the administration. I thought it would be proper that in the main reply itself full facts should be mentioned and I have done it. I may further assure him that if there is any fault on the part of the administration we will not refrain from admitting it forthwith.

SHRI R. K. BIRLA : Secondly I would like to know from the hon. Minister what precautions he is going to take in future so that a shameless thing of this type will not recur ? Thirdly, it has come to my notice that six days back a similar incident happened in Raipur. It seems that the Raipur booking office was attached for non-payment of a decreed amount of Rs. 20,000 on a suit filed by a person and that the attachment was released only when there was on the spot payment of the entire amount by the booking staff. This took place just six days back. What has the hon. Minister to say about this incident ?

SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI : Instruction have been issued to the railways concerned to take immediate action on such decrees. As far as the decretal amount is concerned, we are dealing with it separately on an urgent term basis. I do not have the full details of the Raipur case which the hon.

Member has mentioned. I will certainly enquire into it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छबाब : इस प्रकार कि घटनाये बहुत होती है और क्लेम अदा करने में रेलवे कि तरफ से काफी विलम्ब होता है। मैं ऐसे उदाहरण दे सकता हूँ जब चेक बिना साइन किये हुए भेज दिये जाते है। मेरे पास एक पार्टी का ऐसा चेक आया है जो बिना साइन किया हुआ है मैं जानना चाहता हूँ की क्या ऐसी कोई सीमा बांधी गई है कि रेलवे का काम खराब होता है, पैसा भी वर्षों बाद मिलता है, और वह भी काफी खर्च करने के बाद, कारवाई करने के बाद और केस चलाने के बाद। ऐसी स्थिति पैदा न हो, उसके लिए आप कोई सीमा बांध देंगे और क्या ऐसा निर्णय लेंगे की इतने दिनों के अन्दर क्लेम को चुका दिया जाए, उसका फंसला कर दिया जाए।

श्री रोहनलाल चतुर्वेदी : हम लोग प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं कि क्लेम का पेमेंट करने में, उनको सुलझाने में जो देरी होती है, वह न हो। हम लोगों ने नई स्कीम चलाई है मोबाइल क्लेम सैकशन की ताकि वह वही मौके पर जल्दी से जल्दी उसको तय कर दे।

जहां तक अनसाइंड बैंक का सम्बन्ध है, स्पष्ट है गलती हो गई होगी। लेकिन अगर यह कहा जाए की जानबूझ कर बैंक पर दस्तखत नहीं किये और सिर्फ देर करने के लिए ऐसा किया गया तो शायद यह मुनासिब नहीं होगा।

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : May I know from the hon. Minister as to who is responsible when decrees against a railway are passed ? Secondly, he said that high officials have made an inquiry. Have they implicated small officials in the matter ?

SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI : As far as the second part of the question is concerned, as I said, the report has just now been received and is under scrutiny. No doubt, at present no high official has been held responsible. But, for instance, I may mention that the railway advocate there absented himself

when the case for the decree was being taken up, then, the clerks and other persons are also held responsible. Anyway, we are looking into the matter and if an official is found guilty, we will not spare him.

श्रीमती जयाबेन शाह : यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल उठाया गया है। क्लेम के साथ देश के बहुत से लोगों का सम्बन्ध रहता है, उनको क्लेम दाखिल करने पड़ते हैं। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या रेलवे बोर्ड चाहता है या नहीं एक निर्धारित समय के अन्दर क्लेम को सैटल कर दिया जाए? अगर उस निर्धारित समय के अन्दर क्लेम सैटल न हों तो क्या ऐसा भी निर्णय किया जायगा की उसके बाद क्लेम जिम ने क्लेम दाखिल किये हैं, उनकी फेवर में सैटल कर दिये जाएं?

श्री रोहनलाल चतुर्वेदी : ऐसा कोई निर्णय करने का विचार नहीं है कि यदि एक निर्धारित अवधि के अन्दर क्लेम का फैसला न हो सके तो उसके क्लेम को मान लिया जाए। परन्तु पूरा प्रयत्न किया जाएगा की क्लेम शीघ्रातिशय तय हों। हम लोग इस पर काफी सजग हैं कि जो शिकायतें क्लेम के बारे में आयें वे कम से कम आयें। मैं इतना और निवेदन कर देना चाहता हूँ की कुछ रकमें ऐसी होती हैं, कुछ क्लेम ऐसे होते हैं जिन में काफी जानकारी हासिल करने की जरूरत होती है। कुछ झुठे क्लेम भी होते हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता की सब क्लेम झुठे होते हैं सच्चे भी होते हैं। लेकिन कुछ अंश झुठे क्लेम का भी होता है। इस बास्ते काफी सोच विचार करके इस चीज को देखना पड़ता है।

श्रीमती जयाबेन शाह : कोई टाईम लिमिट, चार महीने या छः महीने की आप बांध रहे है या नहीं?

श्री रोहनलाल चतुर्वेदी : कोई समय निर्धारित नहीं किया जा सकता है कि चार महीने में यह जरूर हो। लेकिन मैं इतना आश्वासन जरूर देना चाहता हूँ कि जल्दी से जल्दी इनको निपटाने की कोशिश ना जाएगी

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : What I am a little apprehensive about, because such things come only to the notice of the Birla firms, is that it may happen in a period of five or ten years that perhaps the 75 monopoly houses will slowly get hold of stations one by one. So, will the government beware of it?

SHRI R. L. CHATURVEDI : There is nothing important to be answered. he has only thrown out a suggestion.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : रेलवे अधिकारियों की गलतियों के कारण सरकार को काफी बड़ी राशि क्लेम की देनी पड़ती है हरसाल। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ की पिछले एक साल में इस तरीके से जो क्लेम किये गये हैं और सरकार ने जो पैसा दिया है उसकी राशि कितनी थी?

श्री रोहनलाल चतुर्वेदी : मेरे पास सालवार ब्यौरा इस वक्त नहीं है। अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो मैं जरूर मिजवा दूंगा।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Utilisation of old Railway Tickets by changing their dates

*334. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in West Bengal, the Central Bureau of Investigation unearthed a racket which was engaged in utilising old Railway tickets by changing their dates and that a large number of employees of Durgapur Steel Plant drew over a lakh of rupees as travel allowance by forging Railway receipts and without undertaking the journeys, and

(b) the measures being taken by the Railways to prevent such misuse of tickets and forgery of receipts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) In January, 1970, the Calcutta Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation arrested a person while he was selling a third class ticket for journey from Howrah