

draw current from it for the electrification of these stations. Only two stations have been electrified and 13 remain to be done and they will be taken up after the electrification of the line is taken up.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether electrification of individual stations has been done by installing generators or by taking electricity from the grid?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As I said, the setting up of generators is not a profitable proposition. We will have to tap electricity from the electrified line when we get it electrified.

Retiring Benefits to Railway Employees

*397. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many Government servants who retired more than six months back have not yet been paid their retiring benefits;

(b) what is the number of such cases pending for over a year; and

(c) what steps have been taken to arrange timely payments?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):

(a)	
Provident Fund cases.	2034
Pension cases.	934

(b) Provident Fund cases.	1034
Pension cases.	479

(c) In order to expedite the payment of settlement dues immediately after retirement, the Railway Administrations have already been instructed *inter alia* that every month a list of staff due for retirement in the Calendar month falling six months later should be sent to the Accounts Officer, Co-operative Societies and others concerned so that initial steps for ascertaining recoverable debits and the closure of the Provident Fund Accounts etc. could be taken in time. Also recently the

Railway Administrations have been instructed that November, 1958 should be observed as a clearance month when the officers and staff concerned should make an all-out effort to clear as many cases as possible, particularly those over one year old.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if any study has been made with regard to the causes of these proverbial delays? What are the difficulties and causes which account for these delays?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The main causes are these: In some cases, the service and leave records are not complete; in some cases, provident fund accounts are not complete. Then, we have to take into consideration the commercial and recoverable debits; that also takes time. Sometimes employees refuse to vacate railway quarters; that also delays payment. Sometimes legal documents are not forthcoming.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is obvious that there are thousands of cases in which pensions and provident fund have not been finalised even after a year or more of retirement. May I know what are the reasons for not finalising these documents even at the time of retirement and handing them over to the individuals concerned simultaneously at the time of relinquishing charge?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I said, there have been some delays in some cases. Every month over 2,000 employees are retiring on Railways. The Railway Ministry has now set up a target that all the dues of the employees should be paid within 10 days of retirement. "A very intensive drive is being launched. Already we have succeeded in achieving good results.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware—he may give figures if he can—of frustration and distress, and how many people have died during this year before their pension and provident fund have been decided?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: For the information of the hon. Member, I would like to quote certain figures. The number of cases pending for more than 6 months on the Central Railway on 30th September, 1957 was 23,34; and the number pending on the same date in 1958 is 103. So, it is apparent that we have made considerable progress.

Shri Ranga: He has not answered the question, Sir.

Shri Thirumala Rao: With regard to answer to part (c), may I know the longest period for which certain cases are pending for final settlement?

An Hon. Member: Sir, the previous member asked for the number of deaths.

Mr. Speaker: Probably, the Minister has not got the figures of deaths.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know the longest period over which these cases have been pending for final settlement?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I said in the beginning, there are certain causes which are beyond the control of the Railway Administration; for instance, the submission of legal documents. But, we are trying to expedite payment as early as possible.

Shri Thirumala Rao: My question was not about the reasons. May I know if the hon. Minister has got figures for the number of cases pending for long and the longest period for which a case is pending?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I do not have the figures.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the railway workers have not opted for pension? This question relates to retirement benefits. If so, what are the reasons for the same? May I also know the total number of employees who have opted for pension?

Mr. Speaker: How does this arise out of the question?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It arises out of retirement, Sir. And, this is one of the reasons why they did not opt for pension.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know in how many cases during 1957-58 pensions have been sanctioned after the death of the employees?

Mr. Speaker: He has not got the figures. Next question.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The question may be answered, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He has not got the figures.

Shri Ranga: It was for the hon. Member to say what was the number. He did not say anything at the first time. Whatever was due to the employee should certainly be paid to the heirs.

Mr. Speaker: Whoever denies that?

Shri Ranga: But, we do not know. That is the reason why we put the question. At first, the Minister avoided giving any reply at all. Another hon. Member has had to put the same question in order to get the reply that he has not got the information.

Mr. Speaker: I understood it in a different manner. How many, in absolute frustration, passed away? Nobody can withhold the provident fund. I do not know about pension but so far as provident fund is concerned, nobody can withhold the provident fund and refuse to pay the amount to the heirs.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Even provident fund is not paid and it is subject to the sanction of the Ministry.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): It is our earnest desire to make the final settlement as

quickly as possible. But, as has been explained by the Deputy Minister, there are certain cases where final settlement is not possible unless all the documents are made available from the different sections which are concerned with it. Even in these cases certain percentages are paid to the employees before the final settlement is made and only a portion is retained, to see if any arrears are outstanding against the employee which may be adjusted against the portion that is held up with the administration. But we are trying to see that those difficulties are also overcome and there may be very few cases where the final settlements may remain outstanding beyond ten days or two weeks.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister explained that the payments had not been made possible because of certain reasons. Is it not a fact that in 90 per cent of the cases, the delays are due to the Governmental reasons but not because of the individual not giving documents, etc.? Is it not due to the Government imperfections?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, Sir; I will not agree. Wherever settlements remained overdue, there are causes. There are cases where full information is not supplied by the employees concerned and whenever full information is supplied by the employees concerned, every effort is made to expedite the settlement.

Shri A. C. Guha: He has not replied to that definite question. If the employee dies before the final settlement, is that amount paid to the heir of the employee?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is paid to the heir.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know, Sir, . . .

Mr. Speaker: No, Sir. It is not a debating hour. If any information is still to be elicited, there are other methods.

Report of the Officer on Special Duty on Port and Dock Workers' Demands.

+

*398. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Dasaratha Deb:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Punnoose:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state the progress made so far regarding the implementation of the recommendations made by the Officer on Special Duty to enquire into the demands of Port and Dock Workers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Government's decisions on the recommendations have been indicated in the Resolution of the 20th July, 1958. A statement showing the progress made in implementing the decisions is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 66.]

Shri Tangamani: In reply to an earlier question No. 156, dated 16th May, 1958, the hon. Minister stated that on the question of retirement benefits the recommendations of the P. C. Chaudhuri Committee cannot be accepted by the Government till after the Second Pay Commission report was out. May I know whether since that date, the Government had revised their views about it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think that anything justifying the revision of our view stated in the resolution has happened since then.

Shri Tangamani: Serial No. 14 refers to the setting up of an Advisory Committee of Trustees for the ports of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. May I know when the Advisory Committee for Madras will be set up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The decision is applicable only to the three major ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Bombay Port Trust had already