

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister stated that some schemes have been finalised and some other schemes are to be finalised. May I know what matters have been finalised and what matters are to be finalised?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The question of the powers of the Board has been finalised. The question under consideration is whether in policy matters they should go through the Secretary or direct to the Minister. As I said, I feel that in policy matters it will be better that the matter goes through the Secretary, Communications.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know what is the agency through which liaison is maintained between the P. & T. Board and the Ministry?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The agency is the Secretary, Communications.

Shri Tyagi: Part (b) of the question has not been amply replied to. I want to have a further clarification. I want to know whether the transfer of one Deputy Secretary and some other posts will be enough, or whether the setting up of this Board will cause further additional expenditure or not.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: No, Sir. As I have explained, we are trying to keep the expenditure within the scale. One Deputy Secretary has been transferred as the Secretary of the Board and we have not filled up the place in the Communications Ministry.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know whether the creation of the Board will cause any extra expenditure or not.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: No, Sir. There is no question of extra expenditure, because we have given the staff from the Ministry and reduced the staff in the Ministry.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether there is any provision for setting up a machinery for negotiation between the P. & T. Board and the organisation of employees for the efficient administration of the Board?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: Yes, Sir. The usual course of communication is still available.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the direct relationship between the Minister and the Chairman of the Board? Has anything about it been evolved and how does it function?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I have explained in what matters the Chairman refers directly to the Minister and what matters he has to refer directly through the Secretary of the Ministry.

Conversion of Temporary Posts into Permanent Ones

*44. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of officers has since been set up to expedite conversion of temporary posts into permanent ones;

(b) if so, the progress made upto-date by this Committee; and

(c) the number of posts made permanent as a result of implementing the recommendations of this Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: A decision was taken to set up a committee of officers to go into this question. May I know when the decision was revised and why it was revised?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No hard and fast decision was taken. Only a suggestion was made to the railways.

Shri Jadhav: May I know what percentage of the railway employees are temporary?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Very roughly, about six to seven per cent.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know from where the figures, six to seven per cent, have been taken? According to the budget figures supplied last time, 19 per cent of the railwaymen are temporary.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I said, "very roughly". I can give some more definite figures. The number of Class III employees who are still temporary is round about 50,000; in Class IV, it is 60,000.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says that last time, according to the figures supplied by the hon. Minister, 19 per cent was temporary and the hon. Minister now says that it is six to seven per cent. The hon. Member wants to know what this difference is due to.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The figures given are 50,000 and 60,000. The total number of railway employees is something like 11 lakhs; so, it will be roughly ten per cent.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What procedure do the Railway Board contemplate for the conversion of these temporary posts into permanent ones? Or, is this 10 per cent of posts likely to remain temporary for all time?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No Action has been taken. I was just looking into the figures of posts made permanent. During 1958-59, 6,890 posts in Class III and 8,637 posts in Class IV were converted into permanent posts. In the last year, from April to December, 4,177 posts in Class III and 6,732 posts in Class IV were converted into permanent posts. So, progress is being made and I will see that the progress is expedited.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: More than 90 per cent of the posts are permanent. When the pension scheme was introduced, may I know whether it is a fact that only 53,000 people opted for pension and the rest did not opt for pension? What has happened to that scheme and how far has it met with success?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: How does that scheme arise here?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It does arise. Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will have an opportunity in the railway budget.

Shri Prabhat Kar: In the light of the recommendations of the second Pay Commission, how many persons will be made permanent during the year?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have given the figures regarding the number of persons made permanent from 1st April to 31st December.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know what percentage will be made permanent, in accordance with the recommendations of the Pay Commission, during this year.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot say that.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Could I know the number of temporary men in the railways who have put in a service of five years and more?

Mr. Speaker: All this may be asked during the budget debate.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: These are points of information which I want to use in the budget debate.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know whether it is a fact that more than 6,000 persons who have retired from service have been provided with extension by the railway and whether these are temporary or permanent posts? They have been given extension after retirement; I want to know whether those posts are of a temporary nature or whether they are permanent.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Extensions are given only in categories where there is very acute shortage. That is generally in technical categories and the people employed are generally against regular posts and not against temporary posts.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the railway administration visualises any decrease in the staff in the near future, and if it is not so, in the light of the develop-

ment programmes, how is it that they are not able to make those officers permanent?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Posts are created temporarily, and when the posts are made permanent then the persons holding those posts are made permanent and confirmed. As and when the necessity arises, the posts are created. When these posts are made permanent, the persons are confirmed. That is the procedure that is being followed. There has been expansion in the railways and posts have been created. Where it is found that those posts will be permanently retained, the incumbents are confirmed. I visualise no stage where there will be no temporary employees on the railways.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: The question has not been answered. He wanted to know whether 6,000 people have been given extension. We would like to know the exact number of people given extension.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I require separate notice for that.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Question No. 47 is very important. That may be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister willing to answer?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Yes. Because the question did not come up here, the hon. Minister has gone to the other House to make a statement.

It is a long statement; it will take sometime to read it out.

Mr. Speaker: It may be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai: It may be read here and we may be allowed to put supplementary questions

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: It is one of the tragedies that has aroused the concern of the whole nation. Let us spend some time on it and hear the whole statement.

Mr. Speaker: If it is merely hearing the statement here, it is as good that hon. Members have the detailed statement before them and look into it and then we will have a general discussion. The whole of the budget session will be devoted to general discussions on various matters. I will allow hon. Members to raise this matter also. Particularly after the Question Hour is over, how long am I to allow for supplementary questions?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: An exception may be made in this one case.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members want to have a discussion on this matter, I will allow some time in the budget debate.

Shri Hem Barua: Yesterday I tabled an adjournment motion on this very subject and I wanted a discussion on it. I was told that there is a question put down for today.

Mr. Speaker: I agree. What was said was right. There is a question now, but unfortunately, it has not been reached. Whenever an important question comes up, all hon. Members exhaust themselves on that question and we do not proceed to the next question. Therefore, hon. Members may kindly note down the important questions; there may be general agreement on that and we will proceed rapidly, so that the important questions may be reached. We do not reach more than 10 or 12 questions daily, whereas more than 40 to 50 questions are put down on the order paper.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We can have a discussion on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members know how to draw my attention for a half-an-hour discussion. They may make an application and I will consider.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Deputy Minister said, it is a long statement. Why was it not laid on the Table beforehand?

Mr. Speaker: Was it not laid on the Table?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is an answer to the question. We thought we would give the answer when the question comes up. The hon. Minister was here till now. If you want, I am prepared to read it

Mr. Speaker: I will circulate the answer to hon. Members, so that they may take up this matter during the various discussions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

'Fly now—Pay Later' Scheme

*45. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has not been any substantial increase in the number of passengers even after "Fly now—Pay Later" scheme which was introduced by Air India International; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) The scheme introduced on the 2nd October, 1959 is gaining popularity and 144 applications (73 in India and 71 at out-stations) covering transportation worth Rs. 2.50 lacs have been approved upto 31st January, 1960. The Air India International are satisfied with the results achieved and anticipate a greater turnover during the current year, as a result of their publicity campaign.

(b) Does not arise.

Spices Board

*46. **Shri Achar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 915 on the 4th March, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of forming a separate Spices Board for improving production of cardamom, pepper etc.; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been arrived at?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The question of setting up a Commodity Committee for development of Spices including Cardamom is under consideration of the Government of India.

/// Suicide by a Teacher of I.A.R.I

- *47. {
 Shrimati Renu Chakravartty
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Radha Raman:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 Shri Madhusudan Rao:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Mahanty:
 Shri M. K. Kumaran:
 Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri A. M. Tariq:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shri S. A. Mehdi:
 Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:
 Shri Ram Garib:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Kumari M. Vedakumari:
 Shri Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the suicide committed by Dr. M. T. Joseph, Ph. D. of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, on the 5th January, 1960;

(b) whether it is a fact that he committed suicide, having failed to secure some relief from the authorities in the matter of employment;

(c) whether Dr. Joseph wrote a letter to him before his death; and

(d) if so, the contents thereof?

Q10