

inasmuch as the Ministry has taken so long in coming to a decision?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the number, but all eligible persons according to the rules framed by the Home Ministry have been re-employed. Only in six cases, re-employment has been effected, but only the fixation of the salary is under examination in consultation with the Home Ministry.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether Government have got any figures to show how many of these applicants had applied for reinstatement on account of political activities but where it was found to be otherwise than political activities? How many were reinstated because of political activities and how many otherwise? Has the Government any figures to show how many people applied on the ground of political activities but where it was found that they had been dismissed otherwise than for political activities? How many such cases are there?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got that figure. It will take sometime to collect it. But one or two cases have come to my notice which my predecessor examined and I also examined. There is persistent demand from the employees, and all the materials on or record show that their cases had nothing to do with any political activity.

Allowance for T.B. Patients

*1549. { ⁺ Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether after expiry of leave with pay a T.B. patient gets allowance of Rs. 50 in the case of dock labour employee and Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 in the case of railway employee;

(b) if so, whether such benefit has been extended to the Posts and Telegraphs employees suffering from T.B.;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to extend the facility to P. & T. employees also?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Yes, only the workers of the Dock Labour Board, Calcutta and the Railway employees.

(b) No.

(c) Yes; but financial assistance on an *ad hoc* basis is proposed to be given.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what are the concessions which are given to the T.B. patients who are employees of the P. & T., at present?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We found the concessions inadequate; so we are establishing the welfare fund from which *ad hoc* grants will be given, as stated in answer to part (c) of the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: A T.B. patient who is employed under the P. & T. is allowed 18 months' leave for improvement or for recovery. I want to know whether he is paid any allowance during this period of leave, and whether such leave is given.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The period of leave depends upon the state of the patient. Of course we give an allowance to him during the time of his leave, but it may not be as much as is given by the railways or the Dock Labour Board.

Misappropriation of Funds

*1550. { ⁺ Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shrimati Parvathi
Krishnan:
Shri Achar:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Police Establishment has detected misappropriation of Rs. 20 lakhs in the execution of a railway project for the doubling of track in the Godhra-Ratlam sector of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the Special Police Establishment;

(c) whether some Railway officers are also involved in it;

(d) whether any departmental inquiry has been instituted; and

(e) if so, when this inquiry is likely to be concluded?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) While finalising the earth work contracts of Godhra-Ratlam doubling, it was revealed that some overpayment were made in "on account" bills. The case has been handed over to the Special Police Establishment for investigation.

(b) Investigations are in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Departmental enquiries were made.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since it appeared in the newspapers that the amount involved in this is about Rs. 20 lakhs, I want to know the finding of the departmental enquiry and the amount involved.

Mr. Speaker: He said, in answer to (b), that they have not yet concluded the investigation.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): In regard to the earth works, there were on account payments of on account bills. On receipt of some anonymous letters and also from departmental scrutiny, it appeared that there might have been some overpayment. The matter has been referred to the Special Police Establishment. Unless we get their report, it will not be possible to say what is the amount involved and who are the officers involved.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether the Special Police have arrested anybody on suspicion and if so, how many had been arrested?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No they have registered a case and they are investigating.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: In reply to (c), the hon. Deputy Minister stated "Does not arise" and in reply to (b) he said that investigations are in progress; in reply to (d), he said that departmental enquiries were made. May I know whether any officer is involved in the enquiry and if so, how the answer to (c) was in the negative?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have stated, from the preliminary technical enquiry, it appeared the overpayment is suspected. But we cannot definitely say at this stage, unless we have received the report of the investigation of the SPE, the amount involved and the officers involved in this case.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: If the departmental enquiry is going on, it must be going on with respect to certain individuals, whether they are officers or not. But the reply to (c) is "Does not arise," which means no officer was involved. If a formal enquiry is going on, there must be a definite person involved.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The answer was given as "Does not arise", because the investigation is still going on.

Mr. Speaker: There are two enquiries—departmental enquiry and special police enquiry. (c) arises out of (b). Therefore, unless the police send their report, the hon. Minister is not willing to say whether any railway officer is involved or not. Is it so?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: After the receipt of the anonymous letter or whatever it may be, a departmental enquiry was held and because they could not arrive at a definite conclusion, the case was handed over to the SPE. My submission is the hon. Minister is in possession of some information about the departmental inquiry. We want to know what was

the finding of the departmental enquiry.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am certainly in possession of some facts, but whether those facts will stand after further investigation is a doubtful position. Today if I say that some officers are involved and tomorrow if by investigation, I find that they are not involved it will be unfair to the officers. Therefore, I am not proceeding on the basis of the preliminary information that we have got. All these matters have been referred to the S.P.E. and after we receive their report, appropriate action will be taken.

Shri Achar: When these alleged misappropriations take place, is there no way by which the department itself could find it out?

Mr. Speaker: I am really surprised at these questions. The hon. Minister said that there was a departmental enquiry and some tentative conclusions were arrived at. It is a matter where he did not want to stop with the departmental enquiry, but wanted to proceed further and he has referred it to the special police. So, pending the enquiry by the police, it will not be right and proper and it will be embarrassing both to the officers and to Government to disclose the result of the departmental enquiry.

Shri Achar: My question was, when these misappropriations took place, how is it that nothing was done until somebody from outside files an anonymous application?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The matter relates to certain earth works. There are engineers who have to certify the classification of the work done and there is individual discretion in the classification of the work, whether the earth is soft, hard or rocky. We have to depend at a certain stage on certain officers for the classification. Unless there was some suspicion that some officers were involved, there was no case for reference to the S.P.E.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know what is the amount involved. The Minister stated that there was some overpayment. I want to know whether it is a fact that the contractor did not pay the real wages to the adivasi labourers.

Mr. Speaker: All these were asked in the earlier stage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: But there was no reply.

Shri M. C. Jain: When was the departmental enquiry held and when was the case handed over to the S.P.E.? I want to know the dates.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think I have got the dates now, but as soon as it was found that there was some *prima facie* case, it was referred to the S.P.E. If the hon. Member tables another question, I shall give the dates.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that. How does it improve the situation and the knowledge of the House? Next question.

Supply of Waters from Tungabhadra

*1551. **Shri Rami Reddy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the differences between the Andhra Pradesh and Mysore Governments in regard to the supply of waters of Tungabhadra to Gadwal and Alampur have been composed;

(b) the exact nature of the differences;

(c) whether the matter has been referred to the Centre for arbitration; and

(d) the action taken by the Centre in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) While the Andhra Pradesh Government are of the view that the Gadwal and Alampur Taluks are within the scope of the Tungabhadra