

A representation was made to the hon. Speaker that S.Q. Nos. 241 and 244 be taken together during the last five minutes and the Speaker has given his decision on that. Therefore, I am passing on to S.Q. Nos. 241 and 244.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will appreciate that I cannot pass over the orders of the Speaker. He might do it himself, but I cannot do it. Now, both those questions can be answered together.

General Strike on Railways

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

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have condoned the break in service of those railway employees who participated in strike;

(b) if so, whether this has been done in all cases; and

(c) the total number of employees whose break has been condoned?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About 2·3 lakhs.

General Strike on Railways.

*244. { ⁺ Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Rajendra Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees on the Railways under suspension for participating in the General Strike during July, 1960 as on 31st October, 1960; and

(b) the number of employees whose services were terminated for the same reason?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). No one was suspended or removed from service for mere participation in the strike. The number of employees under suspension on 31-10-1960 in connection with the strike was 1,525 and services of 348 employees stood terminated on that date.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is a fact that there are nearly 30 employees of the Integral Coach Factory still on suspension, some of them have not been served with charge-sheets and those who have been served with charge-sheets are served only for participation in the strike?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I would require notice about the exact number.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that orders have been issued to condone the break in service. May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the General Managers of many railways have not implemented these orders with the result that the services of many employees have a break? I want to know whether instructions have been issued to the General Managers to regularise their services.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The hon. Member should have asked for the date on which this order was issued before blaming the General Managers for non-implementation of these orders. These orders have been issued only a few days ago and immediate effect will be given to them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: There are some railway employees who have retired from service on reaching their age of superannuation before these condonation orders were issued. May I know whether their cases will be reviewed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, if they represent their cases to the proper authorities due consideration will be given.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: A large number of temporary linesmen have been working for many years in the Kharagpur area and they have now been demoted. May I know whether they will be taken in the same posts?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Temporary employees have naturally to be treated differently from the permanent staff. If there is any hardship and if they represent their cases to the proper authorities, they will be duly considered.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Out of 348 persons, whose services stand terminated, as stated by the hon. Minister, how many were prosecuted for any other guilt? Were their services terminated by the authorities by merely serving charge-sheets?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No person can be dismissed or removed from service on the basis of a charge-sheet issued to him; the regular procedure has to be followed.

Shri Nath Pai: We had an assurance on the floor of this House by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister that, except in cases where the employees are guilty of violence, no action will be taken leading to their dismissal. May we know, therefore, from the hon. Railway Minister how many people were found guilty of violence and sabotage among these 348 employees, whose services have now been terminated?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will correct the hon. Member. That number included sabotage, violence and gross misconduct.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Is it a fact that the services of people who have been convicted only for participation in the strike have also been terminated and their application for reinstatement have been rejected?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In the first instance, nobody will be punished simply for participation in the strike.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Even if convicted?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Even if there are cases like that, nobody will be removed from service simply for participation in the strike.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister says that the services of nobody have been terminated for mere participation in the strike. The railway administration themselves have stated that there are cases where some such employees have been punished.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a question which can be argued with the hon. Minister. . . .

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Some innocent people have been dismissed, that is what they themselves say. Will the hon. Minister look into those cases?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As a matter of fact, all these cases have been reviewed. The cases of employees who have been dismissed, and the cases of employees in whose case subsequent to their punishment by a court of law departmental action has been taken have been reviewed, and after review this is the figure as on 31st October 1960.

Shri Tyagi: Are the Government in a position to assure this House. . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No assurance can be given now. It might have been given on a different occasion, but now only information has been elicited. It can be said whether Government stands by that assurance or not. That is all.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know the policy. Is it the policy of the Government to see that whatever announcements they make on such occasions, they stick to them and do not make any announcements just to bully the agitation or the agitators?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not a question to be answered.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know whether any statements made in this regard are adhered to. Is that the policy?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Deputy-Speaker. . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot go beyond that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

P. & T. Uniforms Committee

*217. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 198 on the 5th August, 1960 and state the progress made so far in the consideration of the recommendations made by the Uniforms Committee of the Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs regarding the stoppage of the use of Khadi for the uniforms of certain classes of Posts and Telegraphs employees?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): It has since been decided to continue the use of khadi for the uniforms of the staff of the Posts & Telegraphs Department.

Intermediate Ports Development Committee

*222. { **Shri R. C. Majhi:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao;
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Yadav Narayan
Jadhav:
Shri Surendranath
Dwivedy:
Shri Goray:
Shri Assar:

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

(a) whether decisions have since been taken on the recommendations of the Intermediate Ports Development Committee; and

(b) if so, whether the plans for development of these ports, especially Pradip, have been made?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No 63].

Inspection of Coal Fields

*223. { **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**
Pandit D. N. Tiwari:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 959 on the 31st August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the question of extending Railway inspection to other coal fields has been finalised;

(b) if so; the steps taken or proposed to be taken in connection with this matter; and

(c) the progress made so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is being pursued with the collieries in the private sector and steps are being taken to finalise the contract agreement and other details as early as possible.

Fare on Fatehpur-Churu Line

*224. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received various representations for doing away with the inflated fare in the Fatehpur-Churu railway line;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the matter; and

(c) what is the decision taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes Sir.