

know whether the Government are maintaining any record as is done in the Employment Exchanges?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir. If any such instances come to my attention, I would take very serious notice of it.

Brakesmen on Railways

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*660. { **Shri Tangamani:**
 { **Shri Subbiah Ambalam:**
 { **Shri Sampath:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Brakesmen in Running Staff (Traffic) differ on different railways in the matter of categorisation;

(b) whether the Brakesmen in the Southern Railway stagnate in the matter of promotion as 'A' grade guards in spite of their recruitment in promotion cadre;

(c) what steps are proposed for rectifying the same; and

(d) whether it is a fact that written representations were made to the Hon'ble Minister in this regard at Madurai on the 5th October, 1961?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that the brakesmen in the Southern Railway who are all qualified men and are known as underguards have not been upgraded at all the past 18 years as 'C' Grade Guards?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No, Sir. I am afraid the information in the possession of my hon. friend is not correct.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Are you sure?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Quite sure.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government proposes to limit the channel of promotion to this particular cadre of brakesmen only?

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They have suffered most in the ex-SIR, and are also suffering now. Can they not be promoted?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am afraid that would not be possible because there are other categories of railwaymen who are also eligible for promotion to 'C' grade guards such as ASMs, machine clerks, train clerks, etc. All these men are also eligible.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that the travelling allowance given to one category of the running staff, particularly, the guards, is only 50 per cent. of what is being allowed to the other sections of the running staff and other categories of staff in the railways, when they go on tour?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is in accordance with the duties that they have to perform.

Shri Tangamani: There is a certain scale fixed as travelling allowance to the various types of employees—for the running staff and also for those who are not the running staff. Even among the running staff, namely, these guards, the guards do not get as much as the drivers. Is it a fact that the travelling allowance given to this group of employees like the guards is only 50 per cent of what is being allowed to the others?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister has not denied it, but he has said that this travelling allowance depends largely upon the quality of work that is being done. There is no good comparing these grades with the drivers.

Shri Tangamani: It is not that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow any more question. Hon. Members can only elicit information but not force the Government to change their policy.

Shri Tangamani: While others get full, these people get only half.

Mr. Speaker: They do get only half. Further questions would not be allowed on this subject in the Question hour. Next question.