

awareness of the need and utility of better seeds. That has been the result of this propaganda and the campaign.

Murder of Railway Guard on Bombay-Poona Line

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*262. { Shri Sadhan Gupta;
Shri Goray;
Shri Rajendra Singh;
Shri Tangamani;

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Guard of the Railway Mail Service between Bombay and Poona was murdered on the night of 12th September, 1961;

(b) what was the total value of the articles stolen from the mail van; and

(c) what relief compensation has been paid to the family of the murdered Guard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan). (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Rs. 4000/- approximately.

(c) The question of payment of compensation to the family of the victim is under the consideration of Director General, Posts and Telegraphs. Meanwhile an interim relief of Rs. 100/- out of Welfare Fund has been granted by that officer to the widow of the deceased.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: This murder of RMS staff is fairly common.

In view of this fact may I know why no arrangements are made to provide armed protection to RMS staff who carry insured articles in trains and why they are allowed to travel alone in trains when their lives are in obvious danger?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That has to be examined by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Shri Tangamani: On a previous occasion in Tundla three RMS guards were also murdered. I would like to know the number of years of service

this particular RMS guard, Shri Panji Seshangoli has put in and whether any report was given to him when the train reached Rankovala before it reached Poona. When these facts were given to him, did he make any report to the person who delivered the bags to him?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The age of the mail van guard who was murdered was about 50 years. I am not aware of any information having been given to him, but we are aware of the fact that up to Lonavla he collected the bags. That was at about 3.12 in the morning. When the train arrived at Poona at 5.05 in the morning he was found dead in the compartment.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether anyone from the P&T Department spoke to him when the train reached Kirkee before reaching Poona?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: At Kirkee some people came and tried to open the door. They could not do so. The train started from Kirkee and at Poona it was found that somebody had locked the door from inside and got off from the offside. As I said, the case is under investigation of the Police and they will be looking into all these facts.

Shri Tangamani: My point is that no bags could be delivered at Kirkee. It was reported in the papers also. If there was suspicion that there was some foul play inside leading to the murder or otherwise, why was the train not stopped immediately and an enquiry held because it might be that the assailants were inside at that time and it could have been detected? Why was the train allowed to take off when that particular compartment was locked from inside?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Presumably the fact was not brought to the notice of the Station Master or the Guard of the train.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is exactly what he wants to enquire. When those people tried to open the door

and it was not possible they ought to have asked the Guard to stop the train or smell some mischief there.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: They are P&T employees. I do not know why they did not report it.

Dismissal of Railway Employees

*263. { **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the cases of three employees and trade union workers of the South Eastern Railway whose services have been terminated under the amended safeguarding of National Security Rules have had their cases reviewed;

(b) whether 23 leading union workers including the General Secretary of the South-Eastern Railwaymen's Union have been removed from service;

(c) whether three branch Secretaries of the Unions have received show cause notices for removal from service; and

(d) whether Government, in view of the changed atmosphere, propose to re-examine these cases?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The services of none of the employees on the South Eastern Railway have so far been terminated under the Railway Services (Safeguarding of National Security) Rules, 1954, as amended by the Railway Services (Safeguarding of National Security) Amendment Rules, 1960.

(b) Only 3 employees have been removed from service, which include the General Secretary of the South Eastern Railwaymen's Union.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action has not been taken against any person for his position in

the railway trade union and as such the question of re-examination of these cases does not arise.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the answer to part (b) of the question, namely, that three persons including the General Secretary of the South Eastern Railwaymen's Union have been removed from service, would it not be construed that the answer to part (d) of the question is contradictory to that of part (b)?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No. The position is this. With regard to part (b), these persons have been proceeded against the Discipline and Appeal Rules. All the procedure has been followed. Show-cause notice and all these things have been followed and they have been removed from service. With regard to part (a), perhaps there is a mistake. Two of them are Union office-bearers. The proceedings against them were started under the National Security Rules. They went to the High Court. Part (b) is quite clear. There the proceedings were under the DA Rules and they have been removed from service.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether all this action which has been taken of whatever type it may be has been taken in connection with the Central Government employees' strike of last year? If so, what are the charges against these people? Assurances were given to us that only in cases of sabotage and violence action would be taken and not in any other case?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No. There are other cases in which they will come under the usual discipline rules, unauthorised absence, for instance, without proper leave. There have been certain charges against them. They have been examined and they have been removed under the rules, though the relevant period is during the strike period.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: If unauthorised absence without leave is the synonym now given for participation in the