

the retired officers of the Railway Ministry may be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The hon. Member is aware of the rules because he was till recently in charge of that Ministry. He was himself concerned with those rules. As I have said, there is a rule like that—namely, when any officer during his leave preparatory to retirement wants to join a private firm, he has to take the permission of the Ministry concerned.

Shri A. C. Guha: How does the Ministry give permission? That is the point.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not in a position to say at present how such permission is given; as regards officers who are interested in some of these companies, or not, or, whether some retired officers had joined or not, I have no information at present. I shall look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I have the list of the firms which have taken the retired officers?

Mr. Speaker: I have called the next question.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The list of all firms in which the officers are employed.

Shri A. C. Guha: Particularly all those which might have employed officers after retirement.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will follow the question and answer. The hon. Minister says only one case came to his notice. The hon. Minister has to make enquiries and find out what exactly is the position, how many persons have applied for permission and how many permissions were granted, whether those officers continue to be there, etc. All these are matters which he has to enquire into. Hon. Members who are interested further in the matter may give notice of a separate question.

Shri A. C. Guha: When the orders were placed not on tender but on negotiation, I think the whole list of firms may be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will refer my hon. friend to the report of the Railway Equipment Committee. There, the names of all the firms appear. As I have said, it is not any other firm which does not find place in the report of the Railway Equipment Committee, with which the Railway Board is negotiating with.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: He has not got all the information. Why should the hon. Members tuck on all these matters by way of supplementary questions, where some investigation is necessary? They cannot catch hold of some question here for such supplementaries. Let them table a separate question. I shall put it as unstarred and then they will get all the information. First of all, the hon. Member may get the information and then they might think of manipulating that question.

Late Delivery of Telegrams

***653. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints have been received, since 1956, that telegrams reached or were delivered to the addressee after the letters mentioning the telegrams were delivered;

(b) what steps have been taken in the matter; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2713 such complaints were received during the period from 1-1-56 to 30-6-57.

(b) The following steps were taken in the matter:

- (1) In cases where service fault was established, telegraph charges were refunded to the senders
 - (2) Officials responsible for negligence were suitably dealt with
 - (3) Line faults were rectified
- (c) The grounds for such happenings are.
- (1) Mutilation of addresses
 - (2) Line interruptions
 - (3) Incomplete addresses furnished by the senders
 - (4) Non-availability of porters for delivering of telegrams in villages beyond the free delivery radius
 - (5) Place of delivery being beyond the free delivery radius
 - (6) Shortage of staff in telegraph offices
 - (7) "Go slow" movement launched by Telegraphists
 - (8) Heavy Absentaeism due to "flu epidemic"

Shri S. C. Samanta. May I know whether it is a fact that the line fault cannot be corrected very soon, as in many cases the line lies in different divisions?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In whatever division the line may lie, each one of them is allotted, for maintenance and upkeep, to a particular officer, and it is essentially his charge and duty to see that the line fault, wherever it occurs, is rectified without any delay

Shri S. C. Samanta: In border lines, where two divisions meet, is it not the fact that those linemen who are small in number, as the hon Minister has said, cannot have contact with the divisions? May I also know whether on that ground Government is going to redistribute the lines so that they may lie in one single division?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I will examine that position if a specific case is refer-

red to me I may state however that wherever a particular division ends, another division begins, so, that the entire area is covered either by one or the other of the two divisions

Shri Anthony Pillai: Is it not a fact that the alleged go slow movement was due to the complaint that the number of telegrams per employee has increased enormously during the recent period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No, Sir There were four demands on which they started, or they claimed that they started the go slow movement I have explained that position more than once In case it is needed again, I shall take sometime of the House again,—to explain that once more

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar. May I know whether ordinary letters posted by the air mail reach Madras from Delhi quicker than an ordinary telegram?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That may be the experience of the hon Member in certain cases, but, by and large, the number of telegrams that reach in time is overwhelmingly larger than the number of telegrams that do not reach in time

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in many telegraph offices there are no messengers to deliver the telegrams? May I know whether Government have taken this into consideration as one of the reasons and may I add that this is the ninth reason for the delay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already mentioned that in certain cases we do suffer from shortage of staff on account of the want of trained hands.

Suburban Train Overcrowding Enquiry Committee

+
*633 { Shri Bahadur Singh:
 { Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Suburban Train Overcrowding En-