

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The report of the Special Police Establishment was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs with the recommendation that the Ministry of Home Affairs should obtain sanction for prosecuting the Railway employees. The Home Ministry did not agree with the recommendations of the investigating officer and they were of the opinion that the matter should be dealt with departmentally by the Railways; and the matter is being dealt with departmentally by the Railways.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Are we to understand that this case has been disposed of by the Home Ministry and is not being brought before the court?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The case has been referred by the Home Ministry to the Railway Board for departmental action.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: How long is it since this case of theft happened?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We do not know the exact date, but it took place between November 1947 and March 1948.

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Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Law Ministry was consulted on this and the report of the Law Ministry was that there is a case to be proceeded with?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Law Ministry was not consulted. As my colleague answered, the Home Ministry did not agree with the recommendations of the investigating officer and they referred the case to the Railway Board for disposal. And the Modi Company have agreed to pay for the wagons that they have wrongly unloaded.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that the wagons contained scarce goods which were sold in the black market at four times the price that was obtaining in the open market and that they have been asked to pay only damages at the price they would fetch in the open market?

Shri Alagesan: We do not have an idea of the amount they were asked to pay. If the hon. Member wants I can get the information and supply it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the amount claimed by the owners?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says he is not aware and will get it if the hon. Member wants.

Next Question.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT IN EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL POST OFFICES

***1869. Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to open Savings Bank Account in Extra Departmental post offices of rural areas on a liberal basis?

(b) If so, what is the progress made in that direction?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Savings Bank facilities are provided in post offices in rural areas on as liberal a basis as the circumstances would permit.

(b) The following figures of Branch post offices doing Savings Bank work will indicate the progress made:—

31st March, 1951 4,501

31st March, 1952 4,901

31st March, 1953 5,076.

Shri L. N. Mishra: What are the basic conditions for opening Savings Bank Accounts in Extra Departmental post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Before we provide Savings Bank facilities in rural post offices we have to see—because most of them are Extra Departmental post offices—the financial stability of the person who runs the post office—that means the Extra Departmental Postmaster—as also facilities for conveyance of cash and the security of the cash in the post office itself.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Are Government aware that public institutions and individuals in the rural areas experience great many difficulties for want of Savings Bank facilities in Extra Departmental post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Sir, I have not been able to follow the question.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What is the maximum saving that can be deposited in these Savings Bank accounts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is Rs. 15,000 in the case of single depositors and Rs. 30,000 in the case of joint depositors.

श्री एस० एन० दास : जब किसी ऐक्सट्रा डिपार्टमेंटल पोस्ट आफिस में सेविंग बैंक खोला जाता है तो क्या उस के पोस्ट मास्टर को कुछ ऐक्सट्रा पेमेंट किया जाता है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी, नहीं ।

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Is there a plan to have Savings Bank accounts in every Extra Departmental post office in view of the drive for small savings?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I have already said, we are ourselves anxious to extend the facility as widely as possible. But we have to bear in mind essentially two factors: firstly, whether the financial stability of the person who holds charge of that cash as the Extra-Departmental Postmaster is sufficiently good or not and, secondly, what are the facilities for keeping the cash there and also for conveying the cash from that place to the nearest account office.

Shri M. D. Joshi: May I know the rate of progress Statewise?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For all the States? No, I won't allow. If he is interested in any particular State he may ask.

Shri M. D. Joshi: May I know for Bombay?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am sorry I have not got the figures Statewise here.

FACILITIES FOR SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS

*1870. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether some new kind of facilities to make deposits in and to withdraw from Savings Bank Accounts of the Post Offices are to be provided to the people?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes. The following facilities are proposed to be extended:—

(i) Withdrawal of money by cheques and crediting cheques, drafts, etc., from and to Post Offices Savings Bank accounts, subject to certain restrictions. These will be tried experimentally, in the first instance, at selected Head Offices in the Bombay Circle.

(ii) Two withdrawals a week, from an ordinary Savings Bank account subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,000.

(iii) Attestation by a Gazetted Officer, or by another depositor, of the signature of a depositor on an application for withdrawal, when the depositor's signature does not tally with his specimen signature, subject to certain restrictions.

(iv) Issue of metal tokens to depositors at Head Offices in Calcutta, Kanpur and Ahmedabad at the time of

withdrawing or depositing money. This will avoid waiting in queues at the Post Office counters.

(v) Interest on Post Office Savings Bank accounts standing in the names of joint depositors at 2 per cent. per annum up to a balance of Rs. 20,000 and at 1½ per cent. per annum on the remainder of the balance not exceeding Rs. 30,000.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know at what time this facility will be provided in the rural areas?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are beginning with the head offices and that too in a limited sphere in Bombay circle. It will take time for us to extend these facilities in a wider area. It depends upon the success of the scheme.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee has suggested introduction of this system in rural areas? If so, has Government taken any action in this respect?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the Committee which was appointed in 1950 consisting of a representative of the Reserve Bank and one other official of the P. and T. Department should have considered all these matters.

TRAVEL-AGENTS FROM U. S. A.

*1871. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently invited some travel-agents from the U.S.A., and

(b) if so, whether those travel-agents have made any suggestions to Government with regard to encouraging American tourists in India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the nature of the suggestions made by those tourists and whether Government is going to implement them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The suggestions made by the tourists related to immunity from customs and exchange formalities, provision of better guides and transport services and extra sanitary fittings in hotel bathrooms.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government have accepted that suggestion and if so, up to what amount of money is the Government going to give concession to the tourists?