

Travelling Ticket Examiners only was retained. The prescribed scales of pay are generally lower than the pre-1931 scales of pay in the cases of higher-paid staff but higher than the post-1931 scales. The pre-1931 employees had, however, an option to retain the pre-1931 scales of pay.

(e) The introduction of the prescribed scales did not involve any change in the duties of the Travelling Ticket Examining staff including the District Inspectors.

(f) The Joint Advisory Committee considered the question of the number of posts to be allocated to the higher grades in the light of the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission that it would be fair that the number of posts in the intermediate grades was fixed reasonably large so as not to block far too many in the lowest grade. They suggested certain re-allocation of posts in the case of Travelling Ticket Examiners also, and these have been accepted by Government and implemented on the ex-B. N. Railway.

DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO RAILWAY SERVICES

*2304. **Shri N. S. Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vacancies in the higher grades of Railway employees have been filled up by direct recruitment and if so, what percentage; and

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to recruit a definite percentage of Railway employees from outside by direct recruitment?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Excepting a very few cases wherein direct recruitment to intermediate grades was specifically permitted, all vacancies in the higher grades were filled by promotion.

(b) The question is under consideration.

PUBLIC MEETINGS IN AGARTALA

*2307. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions from the Central Government not to allow any public meeting within the Municipal area of Agartala, Tripura; and

(b) whether the Darbar ground, a conventional public meeting place in Agartala, Tripura has been prohibited by the Central Government to be used for the purpose of Public meetings?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The

Central Government have not issued any instructions on either of these matters.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION CASES

*2310. **Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a small Committee of some senior Secretaries of the Central Secretariat was appointed to find out ways and means to deal with the cases of corruption, misconduct and indiscipline of Government Servants expeditiously; and

(b) what were the recommendations of the Committee; if any?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States: (a) and (b). An informal Committee of officers, including some senior Secretaries, was set up some time ago, but the terms of reference were very much more restricted than the hon. Member's question implies. The Committee was only asked to examine whether it was possible and necessary to simplify the procedure at present prescribed for the conduct of disciplinary proceedings against Government servants. As the matter depended very largely on an authoritative interpretation to article 311 (2) of the Constitution, the Committee was compelled to postpone its recommendations pending the necessary legal advice which has only recently been received.

In this connection, the hon. Members' attention is also invited to the answer given by me on the 5th June 1952 to the Unstarred Question No. 96 tabled by Shri M. L. Dwivedi.

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO

*2310-A. **Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the different varieties of tobacco grown in India for different purposes;

(b) the variety which is used for Hookah, chewing and snuff and the States where it is produced;

(c) the variety used for the manufacture of bidis and the place where it is grown;

(d) the total produce of tobacco in India per year and the estimated value of it; and

(e) the acreage under tobacco cultivation in India at present and whether it is increasing or decreasing in recent years?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing the different varieties of tobacco