

## LIAQUAT ALI MEMORIAL FUND

\*175. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government of India of forcible realizations of donations for Liaquat Ali Memorial Fund from Hindu Railway passengers by Ansars of East Bengal at Darsana Railway Station; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

## ROBBERIES IN TRAINS

\*176. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the number of robberies in running trains in the six Railway zones have decreased since 1st July of this year compared to the corresponding period during last year?

(b) Which is the Railway zone where such robberies have been the largest in number and where have they been small in number?

(c) Have Government taken any additional precautionary measures to check these robberies after 1st July, 1952?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) There has been a slight increase in the overall number of robberies in running trains during July to September this year as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(b) The largest number is recorded on the Northern and North Eastern Railways, being 118 in each case. There have been no robberies on the Central Railway.

(c) No; but there has been a steady and continuous drive against such robberies for some time by adopting preventive measures, such as, escorting of trains by Railway Protection Police, and watching of plague spots.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether, as a result of the drive that has been instituted, any decrease in these robberies has been effected?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is more or less a question of opinion. The question is a

mixed one of law and order—a subject with which the State through whose territory the railway is passing is concerned. Robbery is not the production of the Railway Ministry. So, the question is rather a complicated one that way.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether any passenger had been killed as a result of these robberies during the last two months?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** One passenger has been killed.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the number of passengers wounded?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** It is rather difficult.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think we need go into that. It is not possible to give such information.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Is it not the duty of the railway to protect the passengers, irrespective of whether the railway passes through one State or another?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is asking for an opinion and arguing.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** May I know what has happened to those who successfully gagged Mr. Gadgil?—I refer to the running train, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I must "gag" the Members here and go to the next question, it appears.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know what other precautionary measures, apart from the provision of escorts, have been taken by the railway authorities?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I would like to inform the House that most of the robberies were committed in goods trains, and this is really a law and order problem, as the hon. Speaker pointed out just now. I may also inform the House that we are taking the help of the Home Ministry. In addition, we on our part are going to take definite steps in respect of our watch and ward organisation.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Alongside the decrease in the robberies committed on the railways, may I know whether thefts have increased and the implication of railway servants in those thefts has also been on the increase?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** It is difficult to say anything about that.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

\*177. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of industrial disputes falling within the Central Government's sphere resulting in work stoppages since the beginning of the current financial year?

(b) How does this figure compare with the figure for the corresponding period of last year?

(c) What has been the total number of man-days lost so far in these industrial disputes this year as compared to last year?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know how long it would take to collect the information?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** At the most three weeks.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May we expect the information before the end of this session?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Certainly.

**Mr. Speaker:** Provided the session does not end before three weeks.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Who knows?—it may be extended.

#### LAND ARMIES

\*178. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to discontinue land armies?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the same?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether the Government is aware that two weeks ago there was a press report to the effect that Government is contemplating to discontinue the land army?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid the press report is incorrect.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know how many acres of land have

been newly brought under cultivation by this land army?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This organisation is of recent origin and there has not been sufficient time for it to show a large acreage, but I can give an idea of the things it has done. Land armies have been organised in more than half a dozen States and in some places they have de-silted drains, constructed roads, planted trees, eradicated weeds and done similar work which goes to improve agricultural production.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know the States in which these land armies have been started so far?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There are many States, viz. Delhi, Orissa, Assam, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh, Bombay and West Bengal.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know the total number of men in the land armies in all the States just now mentioned?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The total number will come to about 12,000 to 15,000.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know which is the agency that controls this land army?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is a constitution framed for the guidance of these land armies. There are various categories of people who are expected to take part in it. It includes officials, non-officials, students of colleges, especially those coming from agricultural colleges, public men and so on. The ranks are divided into two parts: regulars and auxiliaries, and their duties and functions are clearly laid down.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** What is the amount of money so far spent on this land army?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** None at all.

#### SUGAR POSITION

\*179. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the present position of sugar in India?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the sugar factories in U.P. and Bihar have not paid full prices of the sugar-cane they purchased from the cultivators last season?

(c) If so, how much do they owe to the cultivators?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The quantity of