

trying our very best to see that everything that is humanly possible is done to put more rolling stock and coaching stock on the line there. Also, we increased the number of bogies which can be attached to each train; up to 15 to 16 bogies, we have allowed per train. So we are doing whatever is possible.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government are aware that on the Chapra-Masarak line—the branch line—travelling on roofs is very common, and there are less number of trains also so that there is rush, necessitating travelling on roofs?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri) : May be so. But the hon. Member should co-operate with us in the matter. I do not think this can be prevented by taking action against those who travel on roofs, because the number is sometimes very large. I do not know whether the hon. Member has ever issued any statement appealing to the people that they should indulge in such practice. I would very much like him to do so and we will play our own part.

Shri Jaipal Singh rose—

Mr. Speaker : Let us not enter into arguments. Next question.

Foreign Mails

*2196. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff attached to Foreign Mail Section in Bombay refused to do overtime work resulting in foreign mails being piled up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to see that the mails are not held up and are despatched to their destination in time according to schedule?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : (a) Certain staff excluding Class IV staff did not volunteer for over time duty during the period 29th June, 1955 to 25th July, 1955. It however, did not result in mails being unduly piled up as prompt steps to clear the mails by alternative methods were taken.

(b) The staff concerned were alleged to be apprehensive that their rates of overtime allowance were being reduced. This has not in fact occurred.

(c) The staff are performing overtime duty and normal conditions have since been restored.

Shri Gidwani : Is it a fact that the extra allowance paid to the clerks was stopped?

Shri Raj Bahadur : The apprehension arose out of an interpretation of the rules pertaining to overtime allowance. For the pre-1931 employees, there was one rate of overtime allowance which was higher than that allowed for the post-1931 entrants. But since 1950, all were getting the allowance on the pre-1931 scale. Later on, there was some different interpretation put by the Auditor-General, but then we approached the Ministry of Finance and ultimately everything has been settled, and now there is no dispute about this overtime allowance.

Shri Gidwani : Do I understand that the original rate has been restored?

Shri Raj Bahadur : It was never denied or refused.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : The hon. Minister stated that alternative arrangements were made to clear up the arrears. May I know what are they?

Shri Raj Bahadur : They were many. I can recount them, but it will take 4 to 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker : We will go to the next question.

Forge Tickets

*2197. **Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiee :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons, if any, arrested for selling forged tickets during the period from the 1st January to the 31st August, 1955, Zone-wise;

(b) whether some railway employees were also amongst them; and

(c) the total amount involved?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Chaudhri Muhammed Shafiee : How much time will it take?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : We cannot answer that because investigations are being carried out by the police.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government have received any complaint or any information that the railway employees are involved in this?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : The matter is still under investigation but we have received information that according to the statement of the persons arrested, some railway employees of the Howrah Printing Press are implicated.