

Dr. Rama Rao : No, it is noticed there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Is it there in the statement?

Dr. Rama Rao : Yes, but not the recommendations.

Shri Abid Ali : I have got here about the Bombay Port Trust, the Calcutta Port Trust etc. I have already promised to lay a detailed statement on the Table.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Very well. Next question.

Watch and Ward Staff

*1215. **Shri Gidwani :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has issued a notification on the 15th April, 1955 depriving its Watch and Ward Staff of the trade union rights;

(b) whether the convention of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen held on the 29th May, 1955 urged upon the Railway Board to cancel the notification; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a). The notification promulgated with effect from 15-4-55 permits them to join an Association composed entirely of the members of the Railway Security Force, which shall not affiliate itself to any other Union or Association.

(b) The National Federation of Railwaymen have held no convention in May 1955. Some of the Railway Unions affiliated to the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, and also some other un-recognised and unaffiliated railway unions did however meet at Madras on the 27th, 28th and 29th May, 1955 and *inter alia* passed a resolution urging upon the Railway Board to cancel the Notification.

(c) No action has been taken in the matter, as the rules that have been promulgated are in accordance with those applying to the Police Force and are based on the similarity in the nature of work in the two organisations.

Shri Gidwani : I did not catch the answer to part (a) of the question. Are the rules governing these trade unions and watch and ward on the police lines?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : He did not follow the answer to the first question.

Shri Alagesan : I said, the Notification promulgated with effect from 15-4-55 permits them to join an Association composed entirely of the members of the Railway Security Force, which shall not affiliate itself to any other Union or Association.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : Separate, independent union for themselves.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know under what rule the Ministry has deprived this watch and ward from joining any federation or union which is their inherent right?

Shri Alagesan : This notification was issued under article 309 of the Constitution.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : What are the reasons that prevailed upon the Government in asking the watch and ward not to join any union or federation?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : The hon. Member will look into article 309.

Shri B. S. Murthy : Is it the intention of the Government to convert the watch and ward into a security force?

Shri Alagesan : Yes. It is in that context that this notification has been issued.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I also know under what category the Madras Convention of Railway Trade Unions has been treated by the Government? Is it as a branch or part of the National Railwaymen's Federation or as separate from it?

Shri Alagesan : I do not think that has to be gone into now. Anyhow, I have answered part (b) of the question and I have stated that it was not a regular convention of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, but there were certain recognised unions as also certain un-recognised unions and they met and passed certain resolutions.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know whether the Government regards trade unionism as prejudicial to security? Otherwise, what is the reason for issuing that notification?

Shri Alagesan : For some time, the question of reorganising the watch and ward on the railways has been under consideration, and in view of the large-scale thefts and the huge amounts of claims that the railways have had to pay, it was decided to make it a more effective force, and it is in that context that the rules have been promulgated.