

Train Clerks, Commercial Clerks and Signallers have been debarred from promotion as Station-masters and Guards;

(b) if so, the reason for this ban;

(c) whether a similar situation exists on the other Zones; and

(d) the avenues of promotion for these categories of employees on the Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 20.]

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know why the practice in the matter of channels of promotion varies from Railway to Railway?

Shri Alagesan: The Railway Board has issued instructions and asked all the Railways to fall in line.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether any representation has been received from the Southern Railway staff in regard to debarring from promotions and, if so, what Government proposes to do in the matter?

Shri Alagesan: I am afraid the hon. Member raised this question during the debate the other day and I answered it fully. Although he was not present in the House then, I thought he would have taken the trouble at least to go through my speech in regard to this matter. There were representations received and the Southern Railway have decided to phase it in such a way that those other claims are not affected.

Shri Nambiar: From the statement I see that certain percentages were given to certain sections of workers. May I know on what basis these percentages, 85 per cent, 10 per cent and 5 per cent, were derived?

Shri Alagesan: I think it refers to the practices that were prevailing before. We have now said that the promotion to the grade of station masters should be from signallers and

that practice will be observed on all Railways hereafter.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether persons who have put in more than five years' service are debarred from getting promotions to the station master's category?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know to which categories of staff he is referring.

Shri Nambiar: Train Clerks who have put in more than five years.

Shri Alagesan: In this statement I have given detailed information as to all the categories of staff that are promoted to the category of station masters. This statement is a very lengthy one and it gives the position as obtaining on the various Railways. And the practice differs from Railway to Railway. Therefore, the Railway Board have now issued instructions for them to follow a uniform practice. I cannot answer the question as to the percentage of promotions allotted to one particular category of railway employees.

SHIPPING

*688. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether an agreement is under consideration between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics to open a direct shipping service between the two countries?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Yes, Sir.

Dr. Rama Rao: I would request you to take up Q. No. 695, which stands in the name of Shri Radha Raman.

Mr. Speaker: I will first come to Shri Dwivedi's question. Some hon. Member wanted to put it for him.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What about the answer to Q. 685? We did not hear it.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): It has been already answered.

Shri Bansal: We have not heard the answer.

Mr. Speaker: "Yes, Sir" was the answer and I thought the hon. Member was satisfied with that "Yes".

कृषि सम्बन्धी उधार समितियाँ

*६८१. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या आज और कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश भर में कृषि सम्बन्धी उधार समितियाँ स्थापित करने के बारे में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है; और

(ख) अल्पकालीन ऋण देने के लिये १५० करोड़ रुपये जुटाने के लिये जो योजना बनाई गई है उसकी रूप रेखा क्या है और ऐसे ऋणों को देने के सम्बन्ध में कार्य कब तक आरम्भ किया जायेगा ?

कृषि मंत्री (डॉ० पी० एस० देशमुख) :

(क) अनाज बैंकों को मिला कर प्राथमिक कृषि उधार सोसाइटियों की संख्या, जो कि १९५०-५१ में १ लाख १५ हजार थी, १९५३-५४ के अन्त तक बढ़ कर १ लाख ३५ हजार हो गई। १९५०-५१ में प्राथमिक सोसाइटियों के सदस्यों की संख्या लगभग ५२ लाख और उधार दी गई रकम २२ करोड़ ६० लाख रुपये थी जो १९५३-५४ में बढ़ कर क्रमशः ६५ लाख और २६ करोड़ ६६ लाख रुपये हो गई।

(ख) सहकारी सोसाइटियों की उधार देने की क्षमता को बढ़ाने के लिये इनको बड़े पैमाने के यूनितों में पुनर्गठित करने का विचार है और इसके सदस्यों की संख्या तथा शेअर कैपिटल अधिक होंगे और शेअर कैपिटल में राज्य हिस्सा लेगा। जमीन की मिल्कियत के बजाय उत्पादन संबंधी कार्यक्रमों तथा फसलों के पूर्वानुमानों के आधार पर ऋण देने की जो नयी नीति अपनायी गई है उसके फलस्वरूप बढी हुई मांगों की पूर्ति के लिये इस पुनर्गठित ऋण व्यवस्था के ढांचे को रिजर्व बैंक से अधिक रकम मिल सकेगी।

2-64 L. S.

चूंकि अल्प-कालीन ऋण अब भी दिये जाते हैं, ऐसे ऋणों को देने के सम्बन्ध में कार्य आरम्भ करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BOMBAY

*695. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to take over the Tata Memorial Hospital in Bombay; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase its capacity and beds for treatment of cancer?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The question will be considered after Government have taken over the Hospital.

Dr. Rama Rao: In view of the shortage of modern treatment for cancer in India, what is the cause for paying about Rs. 46 lakhs for a well-run hospital in order to acquire it, instead of providing facilities in other places?

Shri Abid Ali: That is a separate question.

Dr. Rama Rao: It is not a separate question.

Shri Abid Ali: All right, then I require notice.

Shri Joachim Alva: In view of the large number of cancer cases in places where there is no cancer aid available, have Government any proposal by which there would be a large van containing cancer equipment and cancer aid will be going round the country so that cancer patients may get treatment?

Shri Abid Ali: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is not here also.

Shri Kamath: On a point of order. In regard to the question which has just been answered, I saw the hon. Minister discussing animatedly in the lobby a little while ago. Why is the Minister not here to answer it?