

Conference this was discussed. Already one year has elapsed and the workers are losing. Could I know precisely the difficulty faced by the Government except yielding to the pressure of the employers?

Shri Abid Ali: Apart from other difficulties, the main difficulty for non-application of the Act to the plantation workers is that the Act itself has to be amended. The other Bill which we have introduced here in the month of September has not come up for discussion till today. Even if we want to apply the Act to the plantation workers, we cannot do it unless the Act is amended. So, I would request the hon. Members to help us to accelerate the disposal of business so that we may be able to make the Act applicable to more and more workers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: On a point of order, Sir. If the Bill has not been introduced, how can we pass it?

Mr. Speaker: Let us consider it separately.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*2206. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that signallers of Eastern Railway have not received certain benefits accorded to corresponding categories of workers in certain other Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Government have no information about Signallers of the Eastern Railway being denied any benefits.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government has received certain representations from the signallers of Eastern Railway regarding alleged stoppage of increment and the obligation of tests additional to the usual efficiency tests?

Shri Alagesan: We do not have any information to that effect. Perhaps they have been addressed to the Railway Administration.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether there is a fixed quota for promotions to higher posts so far as signallers in the Eastern Railway are concerned?

Shri Alagesan: There are a certain number of head signallers' posts for which promotions are made.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether Government has any figure regarding the number of promotions given during last year?

Shri Alagesan: I want notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that signallers serving in the different Railways for the same period are not being given promotion suitably?

Shri Alagesan: It is too wide a question. This refers to the Eastern Railway. I do not have any information on those details.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that some representations have come to Government about the disparities that are found in the Eastern Railway and the South-Eastern Railway?

Shri Alagesan: I have already said that we did not receive any such representations.

रेलवे यात्रा में सुधार

*२२०६ श्री अनुसुब्ध सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे महासण्डों (जोनों) की ओर से रेलवे यात्रा में सुधार और विकास करने की दृष्टि से यात्रियों की राय जानने के लिये जबाबी पोस्टकार्ड भेजे गये थे; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितने कार्ड भेजे गये थे और कितनों के उत्तर मिले हैं और उत्तरों की विषय-वस्तु क्या है ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन उपमंत्री (श्री अलगेसान) :
(क) तथा (ख). जी, हां। सातों रेलों कुल मिलाकर लगभग ७०,००० जबाबी पोस्ट कार्ड बांटे गये थे। इन म लोगों से रेलवे में सुधार