

recognised that it would be of advantage if persons who come from areas near about the place of location of the project secure appointment to posts in lower scales.

(b) 16426.

(c) to (f). District-wise figures are not maintained and it is not considered necessary to do so. According to existing policy of the Government, recruitment to posts other than those of class III and class IV or equivalent grades is made through all India advertisement and no State-wise statistics are maintained.

The total number of class III and class IV posts is 13823, out of which 10742 are held by persons from Bihar.

Railway Gazetted Staff

2755. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. N. Solanki:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Onkar Singh:
Shri K. Haldar:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Gazetted staff have asked for parity with other All-India Services in respect of pay; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken on their demand?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) The representation from the Railway Gazetted Officers is for the revision of their scales of pay in line with the revision made in other Departments of the Government.

(b) It is already under scrutiny of the Government.

Export of Mild Steel

2756. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of mild steel have decreased and are coming to a standstill;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive the export of this item?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Attack on Railway Booking Office, Ranaghat

2757. **Shri S. K. Tanuriah:**
Shri D. N. Patodia:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Onkar Singh:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge crowd attacked the Railway booking office, looted and damaged railway property at

Ranaghat Station in Nadia District of West Bengal on the 15th May, 1967;

(b) if so, the causes of the incident and the total loss of life and railway property thereby; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) to (c). Yes. It has been reported that on 14-5-1967, at about 22.30 hrs. one married girl and a boy along with another person reported to be ex-convict, were produced before the Government Railway Police, Ranaghat, alleging that the girl was being kidnapped by the boy. After police interrogation both, the girl and boy were found to be cousins and were released. Subsequently, the third man was also released. The action of police in interrogating the girl and boy enraged the public who demanded to hand them over the person who produced the above persons on false allegation. The police tried to pacify the crowd but to no avail and subsequently the mob became violent, started throwing stones and brick-bats on the police, who finding the situation becoming graver had to resort to firing to save their lives and Government property. On 15-5-67, at about 02.30 hrs. the mob again assembled at police station, became unruly and pelted stones and other missiles inflicting injuries to police personnel including Sub-Divisional Officer. The mob attack was so fierce that police officers and Sub-Divisional Officer Ranaghat had to withdraw from the police station under the cover of fire. Thereafter the mob set fire to Government Railway Police Thana, entered waiting hall, booking office, platform, etc. and destroyed the Government property. It has been reported that 3 persons died and 17 were injured in the incident. The loss to railway property has been estimated to be Rs. 15,700 approximately.

The Government Railway Police, Ranaghat has registered a case under sections 147|148|149|307|309|332|379|399|426 and 436 I.P.C., which is under investigation. So far 8 persons are reported to have been arrested.

Islamic Common Market

**2758. Shri S. K. Tapuriah:
Shri Maharaj Singh Bharati:**

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference recently held in Karachi decided to form an Islamic Common Market;

(b) whether the formation of such a market will affect India's exports, and

(c) whether Government have taken any step to counter such a possibility?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The Executive Council of the Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami (World Muslim Congress) held a meeting in Karachi from 22nd to 29th April, 1967. One of the resolutions passed by this body called for increasing economic cooperation among the Muslim countries. The Finance Minister of Pakistan in his inaugural address to a symposium which was organised on this occasion had mentioned the desirability of forming an Islamic Common Market. However, Government are not aware about any decision taken at this Conference to form an Islamic Common Market.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.