

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) A representation from Station Masters' Association, Jhansi, has been received recently.

(b) The earlier orders were that posts in grades upto Rs. 250-380 (AS) should be exclusively reserved for SMs/ASMs. With the revised scales of pay after the IIIrd Pay Commission, the Central Railway administration propose to preserve the channel of promotion for SMs/ASMs in their own category upto grade Rs. 550-750 (RS). Guards will be given avenue into Yard SMs/ASMs Group upto grade Rs. 455-700 (RS) and thereafter staff in this grade will look for promotion to grade Rs. 550-750 (RS) on the Traffic side, where the SMs/ASMs in grade Rs. 455-700 (RS) will also join. This revised channel is being discussed with organised labour before being finalised.

Labourers Employed for Parcel Handling at Allahabad Station

3599. SHRI PUNDALIK HARI-DANWE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received from labourers employed for parcel handling work at Allahabad Station during the last two years regarding termination of their services and other type of victimization together with action taken thereon;

(b) whether on recent complaint dated 7th November, 1977 addressed to Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad and copies to others, the State Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals Shri Janeshwar Misra, intervened in the matter and directed the Divisional Superintendent for immediate necessary action to restore the services of poor porters; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the Society for illegal termination of services of porters in terms

of the agreement and the date from which they have been taken back on duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) During the two years period from October, 1975 to October, 1977 five complaints from the parcel handling workers against the Railway Station Porters Cooperative Labour Contract Society Ltd., Allahabad were received. The main points of grievances were:—

(i) Non-payment of fair wages by the Society.

(ii) Violation of hours of working by the Society.

(iii) Termination of the services of the labourers by the Society.

For the above lapses, the Society was fined Rs. 100\$-. The issue regarding short payment of wages to the workers is under further examination of the Railway Administration and has also been taken up by the Labour Enforcement Officer (Central) with the Society. The Society has started paying its labourers at the rate of Rs. 5.50 per labour per day from September 1977. The Society has also taken back most of the workers on duty.

(b) Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Minister of State for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers forwarded a complaint dated 4th November, 1977 from five porters. This was received in the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway, Allahabad on 7th November, 1977.

(c) On enquiry the Society intimated that the five porters removed from service were not members of the Society and their antecedents were not verified by the Police. The matter is being further enquired into.