

(ii) *Dearness Allowance.*—This is a general issue which cannot be considered by the Ministry of Railways alone since it is a wider issue on which the Government has to take a decision, covering all Central Government employees. On 16-11-77 the Government has already announced another instalment of Dearness Allowance payable from 1-9-1977.

(iii) *Parity in wages with other Central Govt. undertakings.*—This is intimately linked with the question of wages, incomes and prices policy which is being studied in depth by the Bhoothalingam Study Group, recently appointed by Govt.

(iv) *Decasualisation.*—While it is not possible to achieve the ideal stage of complete decasualisation immediately, steps have been and are being taken to redress grievances of casual labour in the matter of their absorption etc.

(v) *Supply of subsidised foodgrains.*—The issues raised cannot be considered by the Ministry of Railways alone since Govt. has to take a decision covering all Central Government employees.

(vi) *Railwaymen as Industrial workers.*—Already, Railway employees are governed by the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. However, in respect of the terms and conditions of service, they are traditionally treated as Government servants as basically Railways are in the nature of a public service and are run directly by Government because of their social and strategic importance.

Alleged Removal of Official Documents by Railway Employees

4763. SHRI PUNDALIK HARI DANWE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any complaint dated 14th October, 1977 has been received from a Member of Parliament, regarding removal of official document by

Railway Employees and by the Secretary of a Cooperative Society holding parcels handling contract at Allahabad Railway Station;

(b) whether photostat copies of hand written letters by the Secretary of the Society are also enclosed alongwith the complaint, which proves close association with officials resulting in leakage of official secrets;

(c) whether it is proposed to order a thorough probe through Vigilance and/or Central Bureau of Investigation to fix up definite responsibility; and

(d) whether the Government are again going to stay/cancel decasualisation of porters at Allahabad on the same lines as indicated in the photostat copies of the letters in favour of Secretary, who has become very resourceful and influential owing to the past links?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

चाय के स्टालों के लिए ठेके दिये जाना

4764. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अगस्त से अब तक किन-किन व्यक्तियों को तथा किन-किन स्टेशनों पर चाय के स्टालों के तथा अन्य वस्तुएं बेचने के ठेके दिये गये हैं ;

(ख) रेलवे स्टेशनों पर तथा रेल-गाड़ियों में वस्तुएं बेचने हेतु ठेके देने के लिए किस प्रक्रिया का अनुसरण किया जाता है ;

(ग) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में अब भी वही नीति अपनाई जा रही है जो कांग्रेस