

trains which were not convenient to the public, and the loading facilities for woollen bales at Abohar and Fazilka stations had been placed before him at the time of his recent visit to Abohar; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to remove the grievances of the public in these matters and if so, what steps have been taken?

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

(b) The various points raised in the complaints are under investigation and suitable action will be taken. The Railway administration is expediting the matter.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE AT GORAKHPUR

133. **Shri R. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that consequent on re-grouping, the commercial office of the former O. T. Railway dealing with the claims for compensation in respect of the three Railway Districts Banaras, Sonepore and Samastipur has been transferred from Gorakhpur to Calcutta?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the same?

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

(b) The North Eastern Railway inherited two claims offices, one in Calcutta and other in Gorakhpur. The distribution of the work between these two offices has been provisionally arranged with due regard to (i) the service to the public, (ii) the office accommodation immediately available at these two places and (iii) the staff available at these two places.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

134. **Shri R. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the total number of claims for compensation preferred in respect of the three districts Banaras, Sonepur and Samastipur from the 15th May, 1952 and how many of them have been settled during the last seven months?

(b) How many suits have already been filed or notified to be filed in regard to these claims?

(c) What was the average monthly intake and disposal of claims for these three districts before the 15th May, 1952 and how is the variation, if any, explained?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as available.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES IN BARODA STATE

135. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a certain amount of money earmarked for the construction of railways within the territory of the former Baroda State was handed over to the Government of India by the then Government of Baroda at the time of the merger;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the amount so handed over; and

(c) the manner in which this amount is proposed to be utilized?

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

(b) Rs. 112.7 lakhs.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

LICENSING OF "SHOE BLACKS"

136. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a system of licensing "Shoe Blacks" has been introduced by the Western Railway?

(b) If so, is the licensing done by the Western Railway through a contractor?

(c) How much amount is paid by the contractor to the Railway?

(d) How much fee does the contractor charge on the licence given to each boy who polishes the shoes?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Rs. 1500/- per annum.

(d) 25 per cent. of the daily takings of the shoe-blacks is charged by the Contractor to cover the licence fees paid to the Railway, and cost of uniforms, badges, boxes and equipment supplied to the shoe-blacks.

I.L.O. TEAM OF EXPERTS

137. **Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the progress so far made by the I.L.O. Team of Experts on systems of payment by results and productivity studies?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I place on the Table of the House a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 36]