

### Northern Railway Vendors Union

1187. **Shri B. S. Murthy** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Railway Vendors, Union has submitted recently a representation;

(b) if so, the nature of the representation and the action taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**) (a) and (b). Representations have been received from the Northern Railway Vendors Union against the discharge of certain vendors by the contractors at Ludhiana station.

The matter has been examined and it was found that the vendors were discharged by the contractors following the decision of the Northern Railway Administration to reduce the number of barrows and trays, with a view to remove congestion on the platforms.

### P. & T. Staff

1188. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any difference exists in the matter of grant of holidays and working hours of the P. & T. employees and other Government employees;

(b) if so, the nature of difference;

(c) the categories of staff which are not entitled to any holidays; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to remove this disparity?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) There is some difference as compared to most of the other departments.

(b) P. & T. administrative offices observe the same working hours and same number of holidays as other Central Government offices. The working hours of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices, R.M.S. Offices, etc., however, differ from those of most other Central Government offices as the former are not Administrative Offices, but offices meant to serve the public direct. They observe a reduced number of holidays as the facilities offered to the public cannot be curtailed.

(c) Operative staff like Telephone Operators, Wireless Operators, Repeater Station Assistants, and staff in the Railway Mail Service Running Sections,

etc. etc. In the matter of holidays there are restrictions on the staff of some other Government Departments also like the Railways.

(b) No.

### Railway Employees

1189. { **Dr. Rama Rao**  
**Chaudhri Muhammed Sha-**  
**fee:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 541 on the 4th April, 1955 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken with regard to the withholding of increments of the staff on Indian Railways;

(b) whether such punishment is still imposed by the General Managers of Railways on their staff; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases from the 1st May, 1955 to the 30th June, 1955?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**): (a) No the matter is still under examination.

(b) Yes, except on the Central and Western Railways where the punishment of withholding of increment is not imposed on staff who are subject to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving available information. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 32].

### The National Flag

1190. **Shri B. N. Mishra** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an R.M.S. sorter at Bareilly Junction refused to salute the National Flag on the Independence Day in spite of the requests and persuasions; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against the said employee?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) It is alleged that a porter (not a sorter) refused to salute the National Flag on the Independence Day on the 15th August, 1955.

(b) Disciplinary proceedings have been instituted against the official and the matter is still under investigation.