

Railway Claims

802. Shri Tulsidas: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims made on the Railways in respect of loss of consignments due to thefts during the years 1953-54, 1954-55 and upto the 31st October, 1955;

(b) the number of claims settled during each of these periods; and

(c) the number of claims repudiated by the Railways under section 72 of the Indian Railways Act?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as available.

North Eastern Railway Administration

803. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 231 on the 25th November, 1955 and state the agency that held the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The allegations were looked into by the Railway Board and the General Manager, North Eastern Railway.

Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation

**804. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Gopala Rao:**

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation from the 1st July, 1951 to the 31st March, 1955 on the despatches of coal raised by the Singareni Collieries; and

(b) the total amount given by way of subsidy or grants to these collieries for the construction of quarters, pit-head baths, creches and other welfare activities for the same period?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhal Desai): (a) Rs. 17,49,845/-.

(b) The total expenditure incurred at Hyderabad Coalfields on different schemes during the period was Rs. 8,19,844/-.

Postal Employees

**805. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Mohana Rao:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on bifurcation of Postal Divisions the employees

are allowed to opt for their parent unit in the newly formed units:

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving similar facilities on bifurcation of circles; and

(c) whether on the formation of Andhra and Hyderabad circles, the employees were allowed to opt to their circles?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, the staff whose scope of service covers the entire division are allowed a choice either to remain in the residuary division or be transferred to the new division. In the case of staff whose scope of service covers only a part of the division, they are given the choice only if their particular recruiting unit is affected by bifurcation.

(b) The staff whose scope of service covers the entire circle or those employed in the main administrative office of the Head of Circle are given option to choose one of the circles. The rest of the staff are not given such options as their unit of recruitment or unit covering the scope of service remains unaffected by such bifurcation of circles.

(c) On the formation of Andhra Circle, the staff whose scope of service covered the whole of the former Madras Circle or those employed in the main administrative Office of the Head of the Circle or whose recruiting unit was affected, were given the option to choose one of the circles, in view of the principle cited at (a) above.

The position in respect of Hyderabad Circle is different in that except the staff employed in the Hyderabad Head Post Office group, the remaining staff were under the control of the ex-Hyderabad Government. The staff of Hyderabad Head Office group were not given any choice as their recruiting unit was not affected. As regards the remaining staff, they came under the control of the Madras circle as an interim measure only at the time of integration of the State's Postal and Telecommunications system. Subsequently on the formation of Hyderabad Circle as a separate circle, they formally came under the control of Hyderabad Circle. Since their units of recruitment also remained unaffected by the change-over the question of giving them option did not arise.

Mails from Hyderabad to Delhi

**806. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Mohana Rao:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mails from Hyderabad to Delhi are routed via Madras;