

may come under sugarcane cultivation. But, that will be a very small area.

Railway Employees

*1091. **Shri Radha Raman**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 541 and 1189 on the 4th April, and the 27th September, 1955 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government have come to any decision regarding the question of imposing the penalty of withholding increments on their staff;

(b) whether any cases have been instituted by the aggrieved staff against the Railway Administration; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of such cases?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have come to the conclusion that the withholding of increments under the Service Rules is in order.

(b) Some cases have been instituted by staff whose increments were withheld.

(c) In some cases, withholding of increments has been held to be *ultra vires* of the Payment of Wages Act and in others, not so.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether any case was instituted by some of those who were aggrieved and Government has lost that case?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, that was in Bombay. But the Punjab High Court held that it is not *ultra vires* of the Payment of Wages Act and there the staff lost the case. Therefore, Government are thinking of bringing an amendment to the Payment of Wages Act.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bhopal-Bina Railway Line

*1018. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 270 on the 30th July, 1956 and state:

(a) whether a firm decision has since been taken regarding doubling the line from Bhopal to Bina;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Final decision will be taken only after the Survey Report is received and examined by the Railway Board.

National Highways (Mysore)

*1099. **Shri KeshavaIengar**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of the estimated cost of important National Highway original works in the State of Mysore sanctioned during 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) how much of this amount has been actually spent and what is the sum lapsed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 10.74 lakhs and Rs. 7.77 lakhs respectively.

(b) According to the figures of expenditure so far available, Rs. 6.24 lakhs in 1955-56 and Rs. 0.11 lakh in 1956-57. As the estimates are current till the works are completed and they are not sanctioned on a year-to-year basis, the question of lapse does not arise.

Auxiliary Medical Workers

*1021. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi**: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-year course of training of Auxiliary medical workers is being implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The two-year course of training of Auxiliary medical workers has not yet been started.

(b) None of the State Governments has so far submitted any scheme on the lines proposed by the Government of India.

Railway Accidents

*1023. **Shri Dabhi**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of accidents per million train miles occurring on the Western Railways in 1953-54 is disproportionately high as compared to those on other Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Yes.

(b) A large number of accidents were due to failure of engines and rolling stock and cattle run over.

In the case of failure of engines and rolling stock, it may be stated that this Railway had a set back after integration due to the amalgamation of a number of small private railways of the Indian States. The basis of compilation has not always been uniform.

Railway Delegation to Japan

*1025. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 280 on the 25th July, 1956, and state :

(a) whether the delegation that visited China and Japan to study the functioning of their Railway systems has submitted any report ; and

(b) if so, whether it has been considered ?

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

(a) The delegation's formal report has not yet been finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

Trains on Khandwa-Ajmer Lines

*1029. **Shri Bheekha Bhai** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 377 on 2nd August, 1956 and state :

(a) whether any train has been started on the Khandwa-Ajmer section of Western Railway; and

(b) if so, how far this has removed overcrowding ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Casual Leave for Railway Employees

*1031. **Shri Dhushiya** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every station master on the spot is not authorised to grant casual leave to his subordinates on the North Eastern Railway ;

(b) what is the usual practice for applying and granting such leaves, whether by telephone, telegram or by ordinary correspondence ;

(c) whether it is a general complaint that the employees do not get such leaves at the time of their needs; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above is in the affirmative whether Government will alter the methods of grant of casual leave so as to make it more convenient ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Yes—only Station Masters in scale of Rs. 200-300 and above are authorised to sanction casual leave to staff under them.

(b) The usual practice is to apply for leave through applications. Sanctions thereto are communication by ordinary correspondence except in cases of emergency when these are communicated by phone or telegram.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Family Planning Officer

*1032. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd** : Will be Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Family Planning Board has recommended the appointment of a Family Planning Officer in each State ;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted by the Union Government; and

(c) the main functions of the above Officer ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendation is under consideration. A decision will be taken in consultation with State Governments.

(c) A statement indicating the main functions of the proposed State Family Planning Officers is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 29].