

and grade promotion. It has, however, now been decided that for promotion upto grade Rs. 160-220, these Sections at Jodhpur and Bikaner as also Delhi and Banaras will be treated as separate units, as adequate number of higher grade posts upto Rs. 160-220 are already available there. Promotions beyond grade Rs. 160-220 against all the available posts in various groups of Commercial Branch will be regulated on the combined seniority of staff employed at Banaras, Delhi, Jodhpur and Bikaner.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: While deciding the seniority issue, may I know whether the integrated staff engaged in all the Claim Offices of Northern Railway will be taken into consideration?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: In regard to the channel of promotion, may I know whether the percentage of promotion has now increased or whether people from outside, from the general sections, are brought into this category when the promotion comes?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is not the general rule.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons given by those employees for refusal to come to Delhi?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Maybe they do not want to go away from their homes—they have been there for a long time; maybe they are apprehensive of not getting accommodation at Delhi.

Provident Fund of Railway Staff

*513. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2144 on the 13th September, 1956 regarding the delay in the payment of Provident Fund dues to retired Railway Employees and state:

(a) whether the statistics have since been collected; and

(b) if so, how do they compare with the previous years?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Yes Sir., a statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. I]

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: From the statement it appears that the cases are on the increase, as compared to 1-10-1955. Could we know the figures, because we were told that steps have been taken to clear the arrears?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I might inform the hon. Member that there is a slight increase in the number of cases since 1-10-1955. But I might also tell him that since 1st October 1955 approximately 30,000 people have also retired.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether any percentage of the ho'dings is paid to the retired employees as soon as they retire?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, a certain percentage is paid.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What is the percentage?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It varies but in most cases it is ninety per cent.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members should wait until they are called. Mr. Velayudhan.

Shri Velayudhan: Is the hon. Minister aware that cases three years after retirement are still pending with the Railways, with some of the Railway Regional Offices—they are still kept pending and not disposed of? May I know the reason for the same and the number of cases like that?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is given in full detail in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the Sabha. The reasons are that in some cases the whereabouts of the persons are not known; and then some legal formalities have to be undergone, some legal certificates have to be produced, in other cases.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if these employees are allowed to occupy the quarters till they are paid?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, we require those quarters rather urgently for the new staff.

श्री जोकीम खान : कल रेलवे मिनिस्टर ने कहा, चार्ज बनाओ, चार्ज बनाओ, कोई दबता नहीं है, रेलवे एम्प्लायीज इरते नहीं हैं। मैं पूछता हूँ कि रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट प्राविडेंट फंड पर हाथ लगाये, तो क्या होगा ?

श्री शाहनवाज खान : मैं सवाल को समझा नहीं ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : ध्यानरेबल मेम्बर-साहब कहते हैं कि लोगों में डिडिप्लिन नहीं रहा है। कल बयान किया गया कि उन

के बखिलाफ़ बाजेंज भी लगायो तो भी एम्प्लायीज नहीं करते। अगर उनको यह डर दिखाया जाय कि उन के प्राविडेंट फंड में फ़र्क पड़ेगा, या नहीं मिलेगा, तो यह डरेंगे या नहीं।

Indian Agricultural Research Institute

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*514 { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether experiments to introduce vegetables with hybrid vigour are being made at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the objects on which experiments are being made?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):

(a) Yes.

(b) Experiments on hybrid vigour aim at investigating the extent of hybrid vigour exhibited by various vegetables and the methods of economically producing hybrid seed on a commercial scale. The crops being worked with are tomato, bhindi, onion, brinjal, cabbage, turnip and radish.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने उन सब्जियों के नाम पढ़े जिन के बारे में उन्होंने बताया कि आविष्कार किया जा रहा है। क्या देहात के किसी एरिया में उन का प्रचार किया जा चुका है ?

डा० पं० डा० बेशमसुख : श्री तो बहुत प्रचार नहीं हुआ क्योंकि इन चीजों को पैदा करने में काफी दिक्कतें हैं। एक जेनेरेशन में यह ठीक नहीं होता, दूसरी जेनेरेशन का उस को पैदा करना पड़ता है। श्री यह एक्सपेरिमेंटल स्टेज में ही है। हम ने मेज के मामले में कुछ प्रगति की है।

श्री भक्त बर्मान : यह जो परीक्षण किया जा रहा है वह मैदानी तरकारियों के सम्बन्ध में ही किया जा रहा है या पर्वतीय इलाकों और रेगिस्तानी क्षेत्रों में भी इस का परीक्षण किया जा रहा है ?

डा० पं० डा० बेशमसुख : फिलहाल तो यह एक्सपेरिमेंट यहाँ ही किया जा रहा है।

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister said that some experiments are being carried on in finding out the hybrid vigour. I would like to know whether such experiments are carried on the principles laid down in olden days by Mendel and Morgan or whether the theory of vernalisation is being looked into in this regard?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In this matter, all the previous knowledge accumulated for centuries is taken account of.

Shri R. P. Garg: May I know whether the experiments of introducing hybrid maize in cultivation have been successful?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Food Adulteration Act

*515. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the operation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act has proved effective to curb adulteration of food-stuffs?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): It is premature to assess the effects of the operation of the Act.

Shri Gidwani: May I know how many prosecutions have been launched throughout the country during the last two years.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have got the information from some of the States. The prosecutions launched are: Bombay—11166, Coorg—11, U.P.—12652, Delhi—2161, Kerala—2082, Punjab—3501, Madras—5405, West Bengal—257, Orissa—362, Assam—909 and Andhra—3545.

Shri Gidwani: I know whether the State Governments have stated that due to lack of funds or financial difficulties they are not able to appoint more staff to check food adulteration?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): No such difficulties have been represented to us by the States. Many of the States in which these numerous prosecutions have been launched have actually said that the Act is proving effective. In some of the other States the Act did not come into force as quickly as it might have and, therefore, they are not able to assess its benefits.

श्रीमती कमलकुमारी बाहू : क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि जो पिसे हुये मसाले होते हैं उन में बहुत ज्यादा मिला-