

their budget in the year 1976-77. The scheme was not included in the State Government's Five Year Plan and no provision for matching funds in their budget was made. The State Government advised that the scheme had been dropped due to paucity of funds. No further communication has been received from the State Govt. on the subject. The Railway will take further action only on receipt of acceptance of the proposal and provision of matching funds in State Govt.'s budget.

Loco Staff to go on Strike on 22-7-1980

6380. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Loco staff at Delhi of Northern Railway and their Union had given a notice that if their demands were not reconsidered and a decision was not taken thereon before 22nd July, 1980, they would bring the work at a stand still and go on strike; and

(b) the demands of these employees and what difficulty Government have in accepting these demands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) & (b). The work stoppage by a section of the Loco Running Staff of Delhi Division of the Northern Railway was the subject matter of a suo-moto statement by the Minister for Railways in Parliament on 9-6-1980. Later on a Calling Attention Notice was also dealt with in the Lok Sabha on 11-6-1980 on which a statement was made by the Minister of State for Railways.

2. As stated in these statements, there was some altercation between the passengers and crew of Tilak Bridge-Rohtak Shuttle train at Sampla Station situated on Delhi-Rohtak Section on the evening of the 6th June 1980. The passengers alleged that the train was detained to enable some

persons to buy liquor from nearby Liquor Shop. The crew alleged that the commuters had misbehaved with the Engine Crew and the Station House Officer, G.R.P., Rohtak had also threatened the Engine Crew. The Railway authorities met the representatives of the Loco Running Staff on the same day and assured them that the matter would be taken up with the State Government. The Minister for Railways had also requested the Chief Minister of Haryana to institute a Magisterial Enquiry into the above incident.

3. In spite of appeal made by the Minister for Railways and the administration, the staff continued agitation till 16-6-80. Several misguided staff indulged in acts of sabotage, violence, assaults etc. They criminally assaulted the loyal workers causing grievous injuries. Worst still, there were several cases of acid throwing causing burn injuries. Locomotives were deliberately damaged.

4. On 16-6-1980 discussions were held by the General Manager, Northern Railway with the representatives of the Loco Running Staff Association and the following decisions were arrived at:—

- (i) The magisterial enquiry ordered by the Haryana Government is a welcome step to find the truth about the incident at Sampla Station on 6-6-1980. To enable an impartial enquiry being held, the Haryana Government will be approached to consider temporary shifting of SHO/GRP/Rohtak at least during the pendency of the enquiry.
- (ii) The break in service will not be imposed.
- (iii) In cases where FIRs have been lodged and departmental action has not simultaneously been taken so far, the staff will be taken back on duty pending decision of the Court.

(iv) All other cases where departmental action has been taken will be reviewed by a Committee of officers sympathetically in five days.

(v) Absence of all staff during strike period will be treated as 'No work, no pay'.

(vi) Escorts on selected commuter trains will be provided for next few days.

(vii) As an experimental measure, a C & W Khallasi will be provided on 3 selected commuter trains where chronic alarm chain pulling cases exist.

(viii) All loco running staff abstaining from duty on account of this agitation will resume duty by 24 hrs. on 16-6-80.

5. The Northern Railway Administration have implemented the agreement both in letter and spirit. The staff arrested for cognizable offences have been released by the Police on Court's bail. No break in service has been imposed. There were 196 employees who were removed or dismissed from service for the charges of violences, assault, intimidation and causing damage to property and locomotives etc. All these cases have been reviewed by a High Powered Committee of three Senior Administrative Officers. As a result of this review, all have been taken back to duty except 56 employees who were held guilty of acid throwing, assault, intimidation and causing wilful damage to public property etc. Even in these cases the employees have also a right to appeal further under the Discipline & Appeal Rules, and it is understood that appeals are being received from staff.

6. In so far as the present question is concerned, the Loco Staff at Delhi had sent a letter on 7-7-80 that if the demands are not acceded to and the victimisation/punishments were not withdrawn within 15 days, the Association might be forced to resort to any

agitation which may cause even dislocation of train services.

7. As has been pointed out earlier, the agreement has been implemented in letter and spirit and seriatim the following is the position with regard to the terms of agreement referred to in para 4.

(i) *Magisterial Enquiry.* The enquiry has been ordered by the Haryana Government but due to the non-cooperation of the representatives of the Loco Running Staff Association no progress could be made. The SHO/Rohtak had been shifted temporarily and an opportunity was given to the staff to come forward to help the enquiry.

(ii) In so far as the break in service is concerned, as has already been decided, this was not imposed.

(iii) All those employees who have been prosecuted have been released on bail.

(iv) All cases of departmental action have been reviewed by a Committee as already indicated.

(v) The principle of 'No work, no pay' has been imposed which was a part of the terms of agreement.

(vi) Escorts on selected commuter trains have already been provided as agreed to.

8. The present position is that the Loco Running Staff have not resorted to any agitation on 22-7-80 as originally contemplated by them.

Transfer of Emigration Work from External Affairs to Labour

6381. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to transfer the