

Demonstration by Railwaymen in Gorakhpur

4440. SHRI VARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a demonstration by railwaymen in Gorakhpur on the 16th September, 1980 and there was a lathi charge on 19th September, 1980 where these workers were on a hunger strike;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) whether the Chief Engineer has forwarded their demands to Railway Board; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, but there was no report of a lathi charge on 19th September, 1980.

(b) their demands are as follows:—

(i) Casual Labour employed on BG construction organisation should be given permanent status.

(ii) Casual Labour should be given same facilities as are given to permanent/temporary casual labour employed on open line.

(iii) There should be no retrenchment of casual labour.

(iv) Construction organisation should be declared as a permanent department of the railway.

(c) The demands were mentioned in a communication sent to the Railway Board in the course of the communication received from the Chief Engineer while intimating the background of the agitation by casual labour.

(d) The demands of the casual labour had been considered and policy decisions communicated to the railway on 21-10-80.

Delayed reservation messages

4441. SHRI MATILAL HASDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many reservation messages and messages requiring immediate attention by officers are delayed for months together in the Telegraph Office, Madras on all circuits;

(b) whether the aforesaid delay is mainly due to administrative inability to post one operator for one circuit;

(c) whether the left over messages were more than 10,000 both in Wireless Office and Telegraph Office last month due to inadequate strength of staff;

(d) whether the Signallers and Wireless Operators are daily ordered to work on more than two circuits which makes them exhausted and they are not in a position to look after the urgency of messages kept in heaps daily in each circuit; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes More than 10000 ordinary messages left in Wireless and Telegraph Office at the end of October, 1980.

(d) No. The number of messages varies from circuit to circuit. Sometimes light circuits are clubbed together with a view to limiting and balancing the load on the operators.

(e) On the Southern Railway some more links are proposed to be transferred to operating branch based on administrative convenience and after the creation of necessary posts of signallers.