

Railway Corruption Cases

1525. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 726 on the 17th August, 1957 regarding Railway Corruption cases and state:

(a) who is incharge of conducting the Fact Finding Investigation set up for investigating into corruption cases of Howrah Goods Shed; and

(b) in how many cases there has been corruption and what action has been taken against those who have been found guilty?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) An Inquiry Committee of one Assistant Accounts Officer and One Assistant Commercial Officer was set up to investigate into corruption cases of Howrah Goods Shed.

(b) Altogether 76 cases of corruption had been reported. Fact Finding Enquiry has been completed in 36 cases and partly completed in 17 cases. A committee comprising of two senior scale Officers has been set up for holding the formal departmental inquiry in conformity with the procedure prescribed for imposing major punishments and such as are found guilty will be suitably punished.

Rural Indebtedness

1526. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt was made to investigate the causes for the increasing indebtedness of the agricultural labour;

(b) if so, the causes; and

(c) the remedies proposed ?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) As a result of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry conducted by the Ministry of Labour in 1950-51, it has been estimated that the number of indebted agricultural labour families

in the country is about 7.8 million and the debt per indebted family is about Rs. 105. No figures comparable to those collected during the Agricultural Labour Enquiry are available for any other year. Thus there is no evidence to establish that indebtedness of this agricultural class has been increasing.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As indebtedness of agricultural labour is an aspect of low incomes, attempts are being made to raise their incomes through enlargement of opportunities for gainful employment.

Fertilizers

1527. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken to press into service the Co-operative Societies in preference to other agencies in the distribution of fertilizers?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to review the present position regarding distribution of fertilizers and, if the distribution is still in the hands of trade or departmental agencies, to indicate the manner in which this work could be transferred to co-operatives to the maximum extent possible. Replies received show that in most of the States the Co-operative Societies are already being given preference to other agencies.

Foot Over-Bridge at Fort St. George, Madras

1528. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to provide an over-bridge at the level crossing leading to the Fort St. George, Madras;

(b) the estimated cost; and

(c) the date on which it may be taken up?