

Railway Employees' Confederation. This was called off on 31.7.1984.

There is no victimisation of an employee for his legitimate trade union activities. However, there is no bar to take up with him under the relevant rules and regulations for his specific acts of omission and commission. Action in all cases is taken in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down for this purpose and decision is taken on the merit of each case. The employee has always an opportunity to prefer an appeal under the relevant Discipline and Appeal rules of the Government to the higher authority against the punishment.

Ministry of Railways are not in a position to offer any comments on the demands of All India Railway Employees' Confederation in regard to the publication of interim report of the 4th Pay Commission.

On the Railways, negotiating facility has been given to two all India Labour Federations, namely, All India Railwaymen's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, who by virtue of their membership from amongst all the categories of staff (including those represented by All India Railway Employees' Confederation) represent the grievances of the staff and these are settled by negotiations across the table thus maintaining harmonious industrial relations. Recognition has not been given to All India Railway Employees' Confederation but in 1978 this group was granted restricted negotiating facility with the hope that it would respond by adopting a consultative approach to solving problems across the table. But this group resorted to many agitations and disruptive methods and hence the facility given was withdrawn in 1981. Since then, this Confederation have been trying to bring pressure on the Government through agitations and other means. The 'Relay Fast' on 23.7.1984 was also a part of this programme.

Policy of the Government is not to encourage multiplicity of trade unions. Any step to recognise the Sectional category-wise unions would lead to fragmentation of trade unions on the Railways.

There is a three-tier Permanent Negotiat-

ing Machinery functioning at the divisional and zonal level of the Railways and at the level of Railway Board, where matters are discussed across the table. In this background, it is appropriate for the staff to channelise their representations through this machinery already available.

Removal of eyes from a dead body in AIMS

4551. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether instances of the illegal removal of eyes from dead bodies lying in trust in AIIMS and other Central Government Hospitals have come to Government's notice and if so, details thereof and action taken ; and

(b) whether Government propose to take suitable steps to stop such unethical thefts and if so, details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has reported that a complaint was received by the Institute from the father of one, Shri Ghanshyam Das alias Munna (deceased) that on the 26th June, 1984, that after the postmortem of the deadbody of his son at the Institute Hospital, he found that the eyes had been removed from the deadbody and replaced by artificial eyes. On preliminary enquiries, it was found that a technician of Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences had removed eyes from the deadbody after obtaining verbal consent of the relatives of the deceased. However, since the father of the deceased had denied having given any such consent, a detailed enquiry has been ordered by the Institute and further action if any, will be taken on the basis of its findings. As per available information, no such instances from other Central Government hospitals have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) No specific action is contemplated by the Government as provisions already

exist under the Indian Penal Code to deal with persons committing such illegal acts.

Impact of Statutory Warning on Cigarette Packs

4552. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profit percentage of cigarette manufacturing companies increased after insertion of statutory warning on the cigarette packs ;

(b) whether one of the reasons for the increase in high peak advertisements of cigarette as the symbol of freedom, independence, athleticism, youth and economic and social success ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to check increase in smoking ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (b). There are no surveys or available data to support these contentions.

(c) A series of steps have already been taken by the Government to bring out the health hazards associated with smoking as well as to control smoking. Government propose to consider in detail the measures that are required to be taken to control the use of tobacco, including smoking, in general after taking all relevant factors into consideration.

Burden of fiscal levies on Road Transport Industry

4553. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that excessive burden of fiscal levies on the road transport industry have led the road transport to an uneconomic proposition ; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed for adequate development of transport services

for products and passengers and specially in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The National Transport Policy Committee, (May 1980) which had recently examined the matter observed that they had not been able to find any evidence to show that the tax burden on road transport industry had inhibited its growth or was causing loss to the operators.

However, recognising that there existed a wide disparity of Motor Vehicle tax-rates levied by the States, the Central Government has set up a high level committee to go into the question of rationalisation of Motor Vehicular taxes and to lay down guidelines for adoption by States while levying taxes.

Gandhiji University, Kerala

4554. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gandhiji University, Kottayam Kerala, has applied for recognition and financial assistance from U.G.C. ;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether U.G.C. had given fixed norms regarding the formation of Senate and Syndicate ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) and (b). The Gandhiji University, Kottayam does not require any recognition from the UGC. However the University has to be declared fit by the UGC to receive assistance from the Commission or other Central sources. The Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Commission for considering declaration of the University fit to receive such assistance. After examining the