

M.P.'s Bag snatched away at Howrah Station

4025. SHRI MOHAMMED „SHERIFF : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bag of a Member of Parliament was snatched away by some persons on the 16th May at Howrah Station while he was boarding a train ;

(b) whether the policemen who were on the platform were reluctant to catch thieves even after the request of the M. P. ;

(c) whether he received any letter from the affected M. P. regarding this matter ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Enquiry made so far has revealed that the bag was removed through the off-side window of the First Class coup occupied by him.

(b) Enquiry made so far has revealed that an Assistant Sub-Inspector and a Havaldar of the Government Railway Police made a search for the miscreant near about the platform.

(c) Yes.

(d) Two Senior Railway Officers were deputed to make a thorough enquiry into the matter. The Government Railway Police, Howrah, had already registered the case on 16-4-1971 under section 379 IPC and the case is still under investigation under the supervision of Deputy Superintendent Railway Police, Howrah. No arrest has been made so far and no property has been recovered.

Absorption of Surplus Staff on Electrification of Waltair-Kirandul Scheme

4026. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the period by which the surplus staff of other Electrification Schemes is proposed to be absorbed in the proposed Waltair-Kirandul Electrification scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : On the Waltair-Kirandul Section, the requirement of staff is expected to reach the maximum by around March, 1974. The posts as and when required up to March, 1974 would be filled by the surplus staff available from other Electrification Units of the South Eastern Railway.

Discrimination in Payment of Arrears of Wages to Temporary and Permanent Employees of Guntakal and Olavakkod Divisions (Southern Railway)

4027. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the discrimination in the matter of payment of arrears of wages between the temporary and permanent employees who were acquitted by the courts of law in the cases launched in connection with the 19th September strike of 1968, at Guntakal and Olavakkod Divisions has been removed ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Services of the temporary employees in question were terminated under Rule 149-RI of Indian Railway Establishment Code Vol. I following their participation in the strike on 19-9-1968. They were subsequently taken back to duty as an ex-gratia measure in pursuance of the general policy of the Government.

The period of their absence between the date of termination and the date on which they were put back to duty has been treated as *dis-non* in accordance with the general decision of the Government and they are, therefore, not entitled to any wages for the said period.

The permanent employees, who were arrested/prosecuted in the context of strike on 19-9-68 were placed under suspension. They were subsequently put back to duty as a matter of general policy of the Government and the period of suspension has been regularised in terms of Rule 2044-R11 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code Vol. II and payment as admissible under this rule has been made in these cases.