

(c) On account of non-availability of file on which re-booking order was issued, responsibility for unauthorised re-booking, if any, could not be fixed. Action is being initiated to fix responsibility for loss of file.

Utilization of Return Courier as Cook at Residence of Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Allahabad Division (Northern Railway)

3092. SHRI AZIZ IMAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one Return Courier attached with Commercial Branch, Divisional Superintendent's Office, Allahabad was utilised as a Cook at Divisional Commercial Superintendent's residence in the year 1971-72 ;

(b) whether the Courier protested against this posting ;

(c) whether the Courier fell sick and his pay for the period of sickness was disallowed by the Commercial Officer ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Withholding of Payment to Labourers by Parcel Handling Contractor, Tundla

3093. SHRI AZIZ IMAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parcel Handling Contractor, Tundla, who held the contract from April, 1968 to March, 1971 had withheld payment of dues to labourers for March, 1971 to the extent of Rs. 2,900/-;

(b) whether this fact had been reported to the Divisional Authority, Allahabad by the labourers ;

(c) if so, whether the said amount has been recovered from the contractor's dues and paid to the labourers as per agreement ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a). There is a dispute as to the actual amount due to be paid. According to the contractor, the amount due is only Rs. 1,316/-.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) : On receipt of a representation the contractor was asked to arrange payment to the labour but he reported that a legal notice through an Advocate of Agra, on behalf of the labourers, had been received by him claiming payment of Rs. 2,980/- to the labourers. The contractor advised the Advocate that the correct amount due was Rs. 1316/- which was prepared to pay in full and final settlement of the claim labourers. The matter is still under negotiation between the contractor and the labourers. Meanwhile, the contractor's security deposit of Rs. 8,00/- has been withheld by the Railway and will be released only after the payment to the labourers is finally settled.

Decline in Export of Tea to Hard Currency Areas

3094. SHRI N K SANGHI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of tea from India to countries, other than those with whom we have bilateral agreements, is not growing while the production is increasing ;

(b) whether its export is declining to hard currency areas ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). There has been a decline in export of tea to countries not covered by bilateral trade agreements.