

OPERATION OF NEW ROUTE RELAY INTERLOCKING SYSTEM AT BORIVLI (WESTERN RAILWAY)

1261. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the 8th November, 1971, the Assistant Station Masters at Borivli (Western Railway, Bombay Division) were ordered to work and operate new route relay interlocking system without picking up the work;

(b) whether on their demand for providing 8 A.S.Ms. for the work as advised by M/s. Sieman (engineers of establishing firm), they were threatened with dire consequences;

(c) whether in their absence Switchmen and other persons having no competency certificates were put to work in violation of operating rules; and

(d) whether the representation of the Assistant Station Masters was not looked into and whether the operation of trains by unqualified persons resulted in detention of trains and if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c). No.

(d) No. Does not arise.

BOGUS TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE BILLS BY T.T.E. OF D.S. OFFICE, ALLAHABAD (NORTHERN RAILWAY)

1262. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD : SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Travelling Ticket Examiner (T.T.E.) working in Commercial Section of the Divisional Superintendent's Office, Allahabad had claimed bogus Travelling Allowance for two years in 1969 and 1970 with the connivance and support of a dealing Assistant in the Commercial Section of the Office;

(b) whether from the documentary records it has been established that blank excess fare ticket books were manipulated for claiming the bogus Travelling Allowance; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the persons concerned and the measures

adopted to prevent the recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) A complaint of this nature has been received.

(b) and (c). Enquiries into the complaint are in progress. Action will be taken on completion of the enquiries.

FALL IN EXPORT OF JUTE

1263. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : SHRI P. K. DEO :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a situation has now arisen when India is likely to lose the American market for Jute packaging;

(b) the extent of fall in exports of jute packagings to USA during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government have been able to explore new markets for diversion of jute exports and to what extent our export loss has been offset through diversion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir, although it is a fact that synthetics pose a serious threat to jute.

(b) Exports to USA of hessians which are largely used for packaging fell from 114,800 tonnes in 1968-69 to 58,900 tonnes in 1970-71. Since then, exports have improved in 1971-72.

(c) Yes, Sir. Diversification of production has achieved success. Exports of carpet packing cloth are expected to be about 250,000 tonnes in 1971-72 compared to 199,500 tonnes in 1968-69. Exports of jute decorative are also being stepped up. A large percentage of these exports are to the US market.

FINANCIAL LOSS TO RAILWAYS DUE TO NON-EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH SIDINGS (ALLAHABAD DIVISION)

1264. SHRI AZIZ IMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Private and Assisted sidings functioning in Allahabad Division