

(c) whether this policy is affecting the future promotion of other Personnel Officers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the administration to rectify the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Knowledge of work technicalities is essential for good Personnel Management inasmuch as experience of Personnel work is an asset for man management. Technical Officers are, therefore, suitably interspersed with non-technical Officers in the Personnel Branch which does not have a separate duly constituted service.

(c) No. Promotions to gazetted posts in the Personnel Branch are made on the basis of overall seniority and merit.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Racket of Smuggling of Coal Unearthed in Bihar**

8013. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a racket of smuggling of thousands of tonnes of coal involving a loss of nearly Rs. 1 crore to the Railways was unearthed in Bihar;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) whether any culprit, have been arrested; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take to prevent such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). On a surprise check conducted by the Vigilance Organisation of the Eastern Railway at Sone Nagar station on 1-4-1973 and 5-4-1973; it was found that 23 wagons were loaded with coal

in excess of the booked quantity, the extent of excess loading varying from 0.8 tonnes to 12.7 tonnes per wagon. The freight on the unbooked excess coal works out to approximately Rs. 10,000. The check also revealed that coal was booked as 'smalls', (as distinct from wagon loads) in excess of the quota permitted by the Railway Administration. There is no information of loss of Rs. 1 crore to the Railways on this account.

(c) and (d). The relevant records of the case have been taken over by Special Police Establishment, Patna for further examination. No arrest has been made so far. The Yard Master and Assistant Goods Clerk, Sone Nagar have been placed under suspension. Destination stations have been advised of the quantity of unbooked coal loaded in the wagons so that under-charges may be realised at the time of delivery. As a preventive measure, the vigilance has been intensified to guard against such irregular bookings.

#### **Railway employees of Northern Railway who participated in 1968 General strike**

8014. SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway employees in the Headquarters Division of the Northern Railway, whose services had been dispensed with for participation in the 1968 General strike and the number of those who have been taken back on duty;

(b) how many of those who have been taken back on duty have since paid wages for the period they were out of employment; and

(c) the reasons for not taking back all these persons referred to in part (a) and the reasons for non-payment of dues to those who have taken back?