

Assistant Commercial Officers did it, in addition to claims settlement work. On the old M. and S. M. Railway, there was an officer in charge of the Watch and Ward Department and claims prevention work.

(c) As mentioned in answer to part (b) certain Railways did not have any separate claims prevention organization. Where such an organization existed, it was virtually a part of the claims settlement organization. It would, therefore, be difficult to prepare a separate account for this organization. Besides, some of the relevant records would no longer be available. It is regretted, therefore, that the average amounts spent prior to 1955 cannot now be compiled.

As for the average amount now being spent on claims prevention, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) Figures of claims registered and the amount of compensation paid on the entire railway system in 1953-54 and 1954-55 and in 1966-67 and 1967-68 are shown below :—

	Number of claims registered	Amount of compensa- paid (Rs.)
1953-54	3,73,758	2,86,69,695
1954-55	3,78,394	2,68,00,489
1966-67	6,50,551	6,10,02,694
1967-68	7,39,048	7,99,74,438

It may be explained that the figures for 1953-54 and 1954-55 are not directly comparable with the figures for 1966-67 and 1967-68 because conditions have been changing. To mention only a few factors, the traffic carried by the Railways has been steadily going up, prices have been rising, the Railways have assumed greater liability and the public are more conscious of their rights under the law.

**Letters sent to Government by
Members of Parliament**

5647. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has directed the Zonal General Managers of Indian Railways not to take notice of letters sent by Members of Parliament ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

**Government Lady Noyce School for
Deaf and Dumb, New Delhi**

5648. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Boarding Servants attached to the Government Lady Noyce School for Deaf and Dumb, New Delhi are not paid their emolument for the period of summer vacations ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to regularise the services of Boarding Servants who have put in more than five years of service and are still temporary ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DE-
PARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
(DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) :**
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They are paid from contingencies only.

(c) Two posts of Boarding Servants have been created and steps are being taken by the Delhi Administration to fill them. After regular appointments are made, the employees will receive pay and allowances like other employees.

**Low Paid Employees of Government Lady
Noyce School for Deaf and Dumb,
New Delhi**

5649. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the low-paid employees of the Government Lady Noyce School for Deaf and Dumb, New Delhi are made to work in both the shift