

Team of Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi, on delegation of Powers, is under active consideration. The Railway Reforms Committee is also looking into the matter. Internal exercises are going on in the Ministry, in this regard.

Demurrage Charges

*78. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have increased the demurrage charges from Rs. 2 per quintal to Rs. 4 per quintal from September, 1932;

(b) if so, reasons thereof; and

(c) What are the reasons for not entertaining claim of the party in respect of goods on which demurrage is charged when pilferage has taken place in the meantime?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Claims for compensation for loss, damage etc. are entertained under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act 1890. Such claims are there irrespective of the fact whether demurrage is charged or not. For loss, damage etc. to booked goods, the Railways ordinarily owe carrier's liability till transit of goods ends, bailee's liability upto seven days after that and no liability thereafter. Transit is considered as having ended as soon as demurrage accrues on a consignment; otherwise it terminates on expiry of free time allowed for removal of goods after unloading.

Formulation of Norms for Adoption of Indian Children by Foreigners

*79. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:
SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-
DAVATE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued notice to the Government, the Indian Council of Child Welfare and the Council of Social Welfare to assist the Court in formulating norms to be followed before foreign parents could adopt Indian children;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the notice;

(c) whether this has any sequel to the alleged sale of Indian children for adoption abroad; and

(d) whether any officials of the Indian Council of Child Welfare and employees of the Indian Council of Social Welfare are involved in the adoption of children by foreign parents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE
(SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, but no evidence of sale of Indian Children to foreigners has come to notice.

(d) Indian Council of Child Welfare and Indian Council of Social Welfare are voluntary organisations assisting the Delhi High Court and Bombay High Court respectively with their reports in cases where guardianship of Indian children is sought by foreigners under the Guardians and wards Act, 1890.