

Railway Minister that I feel the need for the re-organisation of the entire zonal system as it is prevailing today. I am going re-organise the whole thing. Why I should neglect Rajasthan, I do not understand. Unfortunately, I do not have the figures here to rebut the argument of the Hon. Member. Otherwise, I would have shown that I have given almost the second best, the highest allotment this year, 1984-85. That does not show that I am neglecting Rajasthan. But when a Committee has been appointed—rightly or wrongly a Committee has been appointed—if they delaying certain things.....

AN HON. MEMBER : Why wrongly ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Certain action has already been taken. If something more is necessary, I will certainly do it.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I charge you with neglect of Rajasthan because during the time of Shri Kamalapati Tripathi, he promised a broad-gauge line from Delhi to Ahmedabad. What has happened to that assurance ? It is yet to be fulfilled. That is why I charge you with neglect of Rajasthan.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : That is not relevant to this question.

Negotiation with Representatives of all
India Loco-Running Staff Association

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*824. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiation has been going on with representatives of All India Loco-running Staff Association to find out solution to their long-standing problems ;

(b) if so, the demands of the workers;

(c) the issues under discussion ; and

(d) the progress made in meeting the demands ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : In 1973 there was an agreement with loco running staff and the Grievance Committee was formed. I do not know why the Minister stated "rightly or wrongly" in relation to the appointment of a Committee. This Committee meets twice a year and settles the issues across the table. These facilities were adopted by a secret circular in 1980 "in view of the deteriorating relations in the railways". I want to know whether the Minister is going to revive the Grievance Committee for the settlement of issues of the loco running staff across the table.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : It is true that a Grievance Committee was set up at the level of the Ministry as well as at each railway zone to look into the problems of Loco running staff. Regular meetings of this Committee were held till 1980. In spite of this restricted negotiating facility, the Association continued on an agitational approach during crucial periods and in sensitive areas. In April 1981 all on a sudden they started a mass casual leave movement. They also started indulging in intimidation, coercion and sabotage. Under these circumstances, it was decided to withdraw these negotiating facilities given to them. This is the position. The leader of the Opposition has seen me on this issue on a number of occasions. I have directed the Staff members to go into this question in detail with the Loco-Unions and also with the recognised unions for improvement that is necessary in the matter of working hours of the running staff. Here also I want to tell the House that on 26th February, 1984 I had held a meeting at Lucknow with all the General

Managers and Members of the Board specially to discuss ways and means of improving the safety on the Indian Railways. One of the main points discussed there was the working hours of the loco-running staff and its effect on the safety aspects of the working. The considered expert opinion of the General Managers was sought with a view to find out the necessary working hours of the running staff. The General Managers were asked to go into this question in detail and discuss the same with the two recognised labour federations and suggest improvement necessary in the matter of working hours with a view to mitigating the hardship for the running staff, which could have a bearing on the safety of running. As soon as their considered opinion, in consultation with the recognised labour unions is received, the question will be further gone into. In the mean time I have also given instructions in regard to the suggestions that have come about in my discussions that transpired with the Opposition leader. I can assure the House that we will certainly look into this and will mitigate the difficulties which the loco-running staff have been suffering today. Because that has a safety bearing, we are very much conscious about this. But I only want to assure the House that we will definitely do something.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : I am satisfied, Sir. No more questions.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Look to the constructive attitude of the Opposition. They are satisfied. No more questions.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, इधर रेलवे कर्मचारियों में असंतोष दिनों-दिन बढ़ता जा रहा है.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो उन्होंने कह दिया है ठीक हो जायेगा ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : भाल इंडिया रेलवे इम्प्लायीज कंफेडरेशन संघर्ष की

तैयारी में है । इंडियन रेलवे सिग्नल ऐंड टेलि-कम्युनिकेशन एसोसिएशन ने सम्भवतः वर्क टु रून् शुरू ही कर दिया है परसों रात से, स्टेशन मास्टर्स एसोसिएशन की भी वही हालत है और आल इंडिया लोको मेकेनिकल स्टाफ एसोसिएशन ने भी इनके यहाँ घरना दिया है । इन तमाम लोगों ने इनके संगठनों के पास जापन भी भेजे हैं और सम्भवतः कुछ लोगों ने मेम्बर (स्टाफ) से बातें भी की हैं । मेरा निवेदन है कि क्या आप इन लोगों से यथाशीघ्र टेबल पर बैठ कर बात-चीत करके रास्ता निकालेंगे ताकि रेल मजदूरों को संघर्ष के रास्ते पर न जाना पड़े ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a democratic set-up strikes, agitations are all facts of life. One has to accept this. There is no running away from this. Now as the Hon. Member has requested me, I would request him even today to ask them to come over to the Rail Bhavan to discuss across the table with us so that we can find out a solution.

Increasing the Frequency of Kerala Express between New Delhi and Trivandrum

*826. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the frequency of the Kerala Express running between New Delhi and Trivandrum ;

(b) whether any request to this effect has been received ; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a)