

Government have already provided for legal aid to the poor to a limited extent in section 304 Cr.P.C. 1973, and in Order XXXIII of C.P.C. (Amendment) Bill of 1974, pending before Joint Committee of the House, and in Sections 6 and 7 of the Advocates Act, 1961, as amended. So far as a comprehensive scheme for providing legal aid to the poor is concerned, the matter is being examined.

#### Election Commission's Crash Plan

\*11. SHRI V. MAYAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the opposition parties have felt concerned on the Election Commission's poll panel's crash plan;

(b) if so, whether the Election Commission had issued directions to the State Governments to have the electoral rolls published soon; and

(c) whether the Delimitation Commission's report has been fully implemented and the constituencies de-latest by 15th March, 1975.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) The Election Commission has received 3 representations regarding the revision of the electoral rolls which is in progress.

(b) The Commission has issued instructions to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories to complete the current revision and to finally publish the electoral rolls latest by 15th March 1975.

(c) The parliamentary and assembly constituencies in 19 States and Union territories have been delimited by the Delimitation Commission. The work

in respect of the remaining States viz., Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir and the Union territory of Delhi is in progress.

#### Freedom Fighters working on Indian Railways

\*12. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters working on Indian Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether representations from some of them have been received for giving credit to their past service on the Railways rendered by them prior to subsequent employments on Railways after participating in the freedom struggle and if so, the particulars thereof together with decisions taken on each of them; and

(c) in case certain cases still remain to be decided, how long will it take to finalise them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The number of employees who have claimed benefits on the ground of being freedom fighters is 22. Their zone-wise distribution is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Yes. Fifteen of the twentytwo have been given benefits in respect of fixation of pay and seniority, leave, etc. Out of 6 freedom fighters on the Western Railway, four were not in service earlier and as such the only benefit admissible to them was employment. The remaining two put in claims for counting previous service under a State Government and a Gram Panchayat Board for fixation of pay etc. This claim was examined but rejected. There is one case pending with the Northeast Frontier Railway. This will be finalised shortly.

## Statement

Name of Railway	No. of freedom fighters
Central	..
Eastern	3
Northern	..
North Eastern	2
Northeast Frontier	9
Southern	1
South Central	..
South Eastern	1
Western	6
Total :	22

## Widespread Incidence of Crime in Railways

\*13. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread incidence of crime on the railway network including thefts in railway yards; and

(b) if so, the positive steps Government propose to take to curb such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, during 1974 there has been some increase in the incidence of theft and pilferages involving booked consignments, including those which occurred in railway yards.

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(b) The following steps have been taken to check the growing incidence of thefts and pilferages of booked consignments on Indian Railways:—

- (i) All important yards, goods sheds, transshipment, repacking points etc. are being guarded round the clock by Railway Protection Force.
- (ii) Nominated goods trains, particularly those carrying high-rated commodities, are being escorted by the Railway Protection Force in vulnerable sections.
- (iii) Special drives are being conducted against the receivers of stolen property and cases are prosecuted under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966.
- (iv) Plain clothed R.P.F. staff are deployed to keep watch on the activities of criminals.
- (v) Assistance and cooperation of Railway Trade Unions has been sought for prevention and detection of crimes on the Railways.
- (vi) Necessary cooperation is maintained with the State Police authorities for keeping surveillance over bad characters operating on the Railways.
- (vii) Criminals and receivers of stolen property are being detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act where sufficient material is available against them.

**Employees victimised and placed under Suspension during last Strike on Southern Railway**

\*14. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of employees victimised and placed under suspension in Southern Railway (per-