

Railwaymen Charge-sheeted for Addressing Letters to Members of Parliament

*314 SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railwaymen have been charge-sheeted last year under Discipline and Appeal Rules for addressing letters to Members of Parliament;

(b) whether any representation has been made to his Ministry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):

(a) One.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI JAGDISH BHATTACHARYYA: Minister in his reply had admitted atleast that in one case disciplinary action has been taken against a worker for writing to a Member of Parliament for redress of his grievances. May I know from the hon. Minister, is it not the legitimate and constitutional right of any worker, wherever he may belong to, to approach a Member of Parliament by writing to him for the redress of his grievances?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Under the existing rules there is Rule 20 of the Railway Services Act which says that:

“No Railway servant shall bring or attempt to bring in Railway or other office to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government.”

It was in this particular rule that action was taken against one of the employees. But after seeing these

cases, because we have given the entire information to the House, a decision has been taken at the Minister's level that all applications or complaints received by Members of Parliament would not attract this particular rule.

SHRI JAGDISH BHATTACHARYYA: I also want to know whether that concerned Member of Parliament who was approached by the worker—who has been charge sheeted—belonged to the ruling party or the opposition. I also want to know that if specific cases of this nature are brought to the notice of the Minister, will he be agreeable to instituting impartial enquiries by the Members of Parliament?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The name of the Member of Parliament given to me is Shri Ibrahim Kalaniya, who is a Member of the Rajya Sabha and is a member of the ruling party. But it has got nothing to do with the ruling party or the opposition. The only question is whether a member of Parliament has a right of representation to take up any matter with the Ministry and we have taken a decision that Rule 20 will not apply in such cases.

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी : रेलवे एम्प्लॉयज इसी देश के रहने वाले हैं और उन के परिवार के लोग हम लोगों के क्षेत्र से आते हैं। यदि उन के परिवार के लोग हम लोगों के यहाँ कोई केस रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं जिस से रेलवे एम्प्लॉयज सम्बन्धित नहीं है लेकिन उस के परिवार के लोग अपने घर के लोगों के लिए और उस एम्प्लॉयज के लिए केस रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं तो क्या ऐसे केसेज को लेने में कोई बाधा आप के यहाँ है ?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : नहीं, इस किसम की कोई रूकावट नहीं है। मैं ने साफ कर दिया कि एक जो यह आउट-डेटेड रूज है उनको हम अप्लाई नहीं करते और मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट कोई केस रिप्रेजेंट करेगे तो उस को हम अप्लाई नहीं करेगे।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: I am glad that the Minister has clarified the position. I would like to bring to his notice that I happen to be the President of the South Central Railway Employees Sangh. I have been writing letters to the hon. Minister that there is a tendency among the administration to penalise those loyal workers who stood by the Government during the strike. Probably they do not like these workers. There are several such instances which have been brought to our notice. Somehow or other it seems that the officials of the administration are not taking kindly to these genuine grievances of these loyal employees with the result that they have to come to everybody, to Members of Parliament, etc. So, will the hon. Minister look into the matter personally go into their grievances and do justice to the loyal workers who stood by the Government in a time of grave crisis?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I accept the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

Underground Railway in Calcutta

*318. **SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the depth of digging so far for underground railway in Calcutta; and

(b) what precautions are taken to safeguard the stability of the buildings above the proposed tract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The depth of digging so far is about 7 metres.

(b) Earth retaining structures consisting of diaphragm walls and sheet piles, properly braced, are being used to ensure the safety of adjoining buildings.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: The hon. Minister has spoken about the safety of adjoining building. My question specifically is this. The building

is above the proposed track, not only in the vicinity of the tunnel. In view of the fact that only 7 metres are dug out of which 3-1/2 metres will go for the tunnel and the crust of earth of only 3 1/2 metres will remain, and in Calcutta there are no rocks, but there is only mud,—in view of all these things,—may I know what precautions are being taken to protect the buildings above the track?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: There are buildings above and we have to go for tunnelling. The depth will have to be much greater. It is expected that it will be near about 17 metres. It will be below the ground. So, the structure will be quite safe. Whenever we are on the open, the system of cut and cover method is being employed. So, there is no danger to adjoining buildings.

SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: What is the total length of the tunnel which has been dug so far and when will it be completed?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Work is in hand in four sections. I will have to read a lot from my notes. The first is contract section No. 1 which is situated adjoining the Eastern Railway's Dum Dum railway station and yard. The work on pile foundation, RCC substructure, of this 0.93 km. long viaduct section has been completed. The RCC girders thereon have been laid on more than 50 per cent of the length and are expected to be completed by the middle of 1976.

Secondly, in the contiguous 0.92 km. long contract section No. 2. 0.34 km. length in continuation of section 1 has been completed and the work has reached the Belgachia Road which has been blocked up to the Tram depot for building the underground portion by cut and cover method with sheet piles. The length involving tunnelling is about 1 km. It will be taken in hand later when tunnelling shields are obtained from Russia.