

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether there are any Indian seamen in Pakistan-owned ships?

Shri Satish Chandra: I could not say anything about the ships owned by Pakistan.

Shri Achuthan: May I know when we can expect the complete Indianisation in this respect?

Shri Safish Chandra: I do not exactly know. It is proposed to increase these facilities by setting up shore establishments attached to the above ships, so that the intake of trainees will be more than at present. In addition to that, the naval ratings who have been discharged after the war are also employed as far as possible in the Indian-owned shipping companies.

MESSRS. A. H. WHEELER & Co.

*1719. **Shri Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the firm of Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Co. often charges exorbitant prices for the books they sell in their stalls; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise. If specific instances are brought to notice, however, suitable action will be taken.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government have imposed any restriction on the literature that has to be sold by these book-stalls?

Shri Satish Chandra: That is a matter for the local railway administrations. Generally speaking, good and decent books which are in demand by the travelling public are sold at these stalls.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES (CONVICTIONS)

*1720. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many prosecutions in each State were made against postal employees for misappropriation or defalcation of public money in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(b) how many of those cases ended in conviction?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Altogether 619 and 759 prosecutions were launched against post office officials in the whole of India during 1950-51 and 1951-52 respectively; a statement showing the figures for each State is placed on the Table. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 22.]

(b) The total number of cases ending in conviction was 127 in 1950-51 and 106 in 1951-52; a statement showing the figure for each State is placed on the Table. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 23.]

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know the total amount involved in all these cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am afraid, that cannot be given off-hand.

Shri Raghavaiah: Is it a fact that as many as 64 lakhs of letters and other articles were destroyed by the APMG at Amritsar D.L.O. Office?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main question relates to cases of corruption and defalcation. The hon. Member's question is entirely different, as it relates to destruction of letters in the D.L.O. Office.

Shri Raghavaiah: What punishment was given to him for the action he has done?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The question does not arise.

Mr. Speaker: The main question is restricted to misappropriation and defalcation of public money and not to other offences in the Postal Department.

Shri Raghavaiah: My question was that as many as 64 lakhs of letters, including Money Orders were destroyed.....

Mr. Speaker: Then, it is included in the misappropriation.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Then I require notice, Sir.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Was any action taken on those who escaped punishment on technical grounds?

Shri Raj Bahadur: When one is acquitted, it is not possible to take any action.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's question is this. A person may be acquitted for want of evidence or on some such technical ground, but substantially one has the moral conviction