

In addition to the loan assistance, small growers have also been provided with essential items of equipment and machinery on hire-purchase terms which is of the value of about Rs. 55.80 lakhs for the period indicated above.

Uniform Civil Code

28. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Muslim Women's Conference held at Poona towards the end of December, 1971 demanded a uniform civil code; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY):

(a) It appears from certain Press reports that at a conference of Muslim women held at Poona towards the end of December, 1971, a demand was made *inter alia* for the enactment of a uniform civil code.

(b) No Such proposal is at present under consideration of the Government.

Report of Committee to check Misappropriation of funds at Railway Stations

29. SHRI CHINTAMANT PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of three officers constituted to suggest improved methods to check misappropriation of funds at Railway Stations has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the decisions taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No Committee has been constituted to suggest improved methods to check misappropriation

of funds at Railway stations. However, on the Central Railway, a committee of Junior Administrative Officers was appointed *inter alia*, to make suggestions for improvements in the method of remittance of station cash in order to avoid losses.

(b) The salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee referred to above, are :—

(1) Extension of the system of direct remittance of station earnings into branches of the State Bank of India/Reserve Bank of India to more stations.

(2) Extension of the facility of payment by cheques.

(3) Checking of the seals and conditions of the cash safes before opening in the Cash Office and their certification.

(4) Safe custody of the keys of Travelling Cash Safes, and

(5) Proper documentation to ensure safe return of empty cash bags from Cash Office to the stations.

(c) The recommendations in (b) above have been accepted generally and are in the process of implementation.

Lowering of Voting Age

30. SHRI CHINTAMANT PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the decision taken by Government on the proposals received by them to reduce the voting age to eighteen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): The proposal is under examination.

Project Allowance to Railway Employees in Barauni-Garhara Project Area

31. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Project allowance to the Railway employees of Barauni-Harhara Project Area, for which the Railway employees went on strike in April, 1971, has since been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, an outline of the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). The question of the grant of Project allowance to the Railway staff working in Barauni Project area by the application of the basis provided by the Award of the Board of Arbitration has been examined. It has been held that the conditions laid down by the Board of Arbitration are not satisfied and as such the Railway staff working in the Project area are not entitled to the Project allowance

Posting of Conductor Guards on Express/Mail Trains (Southern Railway)

32. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Conductor Guards are posted on all Express and Mail trains on Southern Railway for helping the passengers; and

(b) if not, the trains on which they are not posted and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No

(b) Conductors have been provided on 12/11 Madras-Dadar Expresses only as it is not considered economical to provide Conductors on all other Mail and Express trains on the Southern Railway. The Guards of the trains, Travelling Ticket Examiners in the third class sleeper coaches and Attendants in corridor type first class coaches look after the needs and comforts of the passengers.

Cost of production of Wagons by private Manufactures in Railway Workshops

33. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with the private manufacturers of railways wagons in India;

(b) if so, for how many wagons and at what cost; and

(c) how the price of wagons paid to the private manufacturers compares with the cost incurred thereon in Railway Workshops.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes. Contracts for wagons against 1971-72 and 1972-73 Programmes have been placed on the Wagon Builders in the Private Sector.

(b) The number of wagons ordered and its value is given below .

Programme	Nos of Wagons Ordered (in terms of four wheelers)	Approx. Value of Order (in crores)
1971-72	6185.5	Rs. 14.73
1972-73	9141.5	Rs. 22.12

(c) The prices paid to the Private Wagon Builders for identical type of wagons approximately the same as the cost incurred in manufacturing Wagons in Railway Workshops.

Strike on Indian Railways

34. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes which took place on the Indian Railways during the years 1969, 1970 and 1971;

(b) the places where they took place along with dates;

(c) whether break in service was imposed as a punishment on all the employees involved in the strikes; and