

(c) why the telephones were not merely disconnected but removed also from the premises;

(d) whether he is aware that the lack of telephones at the premises is causing a lot of inconvenience to the public; and

(e) steps being taken to restore the telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) There has been no delay in the payment of dues by the Railway Department.

(c) The telephones were removed after disconnection for safe custody by the P&T authorities.

(d) and (e). Telephones were re-connected on 8.11.1978 and 9.11.1978 respectively.

Payment to Asansol Municipalities

4026. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid by the Railways to Asansol Municipalities as Municipal Tax annually;

(b) the amount of dues as municipal tax by Railways to Asansol Municipalities if any; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). The amount payable annually by the Railways to the Asansol Municipality by way of Municipal Tax is Rs. 1,23,703.36/-. This has been paid upto December, 1978.

Physical Verification of Recognised Unions

4027. SHRI MADAN LAL SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no physical verification of membership of the recognised unions and federations on Railways was ever carried out;

(b) if so, on what criteria the recognition was granted and is being continued;

(c) which other unions and federations have submitted claim for recognition on zonal/National level; and

(d) why is their recognition being delayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) According to the extant instructions, the memberships of unions will be that certified by the Registrar of Trade Unions. If such figures are not available, the Railway Administrations may depute an officer to ascertain the membership by reference to the books of the union concerned.

Since, in terms of the provisions of the Indian Trade Unions Act 1926, every registered trade union is required to send annually to the Registrar of Trade Unions concerned a general statement covering all details concerning the trade unions, the Railway Administrations have been in a position to know the membership of the various trade unions. Physical verification of membership has, therefore, not been found necessary.

(b) Broadly, the following are some of the more important conditions subject to which recognition may be granted to a Union:

(i) It must consist of a distinct class of railway employees and must not be formed on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or of any group within or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination;

(ii) All railway employees of the same class must be eligible for membership;

(iii) It must be registered under Indian Trade Unions Act;

(iv) Its membership should not be less than 15 per cent of the total number of non-gazetted staff employed on the Railway concerned;

(v) It should not be sectional. Unions composed either of one category or a limited category of workers should not be recognised; and

(vi) It should not be, in the opinion of the Railway Administration, likely to engage itself in subversive activities.

(c) Several bodies of railwaymen have applied for recognition.

(d) At present, the two Federations at the All India level—namely the All India Railwaymen's Federation and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen have been given negotiating facilities and their affiliated unions on Zonal Railways have been given recognition.

However, following the tripartite Labour Conference held in May 1977, a Tripartite Committee was set up by the Labour Ministry to make recommendations, inter-alia, regarding norms for recognition of unions. On the basis of their report, a new Industrial Relations Bill has been drafted and is before the House. Pending a final decision on the general policy to be observed, no new union is being recognised by the Railways.

Luggage Porters of New Delhi

4028. SHRI RAMDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1977 some Luggage Porters of New Delhi were awarded punishment of WIT 2 years for failures to return to duty in time and holding uncalled for threats to the Luggage Supervisor, by the Station Superintendent New Delhi;

(b) whether their punishments were cancelled on technical grounds of non-supply of documents;

(c) whether orders have been issued for supply of documents and issue of fresh charge sheets; and

(d) if so, when and result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (d). Yes. One Shri Ram Kishan, Luggage Porter, Delhi was awarded, in 1977, punishment of withholding of increment for a period of 2 years for the charge of giving threats to the Luggage Supervisor when he asked him to explain the reasons for coming late on duty on 18.8.1976. This punishment was subsequently cancelled in view of procedural flaw and Station Superintendent, New Delhi was instructed to initiate disciplinary proceedings *de novo*. The Station Superintendent, New Delhi has, however, recommended that the disciplinary case against Shri Ram Kishan may be closed as the said employee has been giving satisfactory performance without any public complaint. This recommendation has been accepted by the competent authority.

Selection Post of Section Officers (Accounts)

4029. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes prescribed quota in the selection post of Section Officer (Accounts) Inspector of Stores Accounts, Inspector of Station Accounts in the Accounts Department of Western Railway remained unfilled for the last three years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):