

the Public Accounts Committee on Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1966-67 and Audit Report (Civil), 1968 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Department of Mines and Metals).

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Ninth Report

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) : Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

DEMANDS* FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1968-69

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now proceed with the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1968-69.

SHRI NAMBIAR (Tiruchappalli) : I beg to move :

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,80,05,000 in respect of Working Expenses—Administration be reduced by Rs. 100/-."

[Question of granting adequate D. A. proportionate to the increase in cost of living (1).]

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,55,60,000 in respect of Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance be reduced by Rs. 100/-."

[Continued method of employing casual labourers for two to eight years without providing authorised pay and allowances to them. (2).]

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,84,000 in respect of Working Expenses—Operating Staff be reduced by Rs. 100/-."

[Need to grant adequate to leave reserve and 12 hours duty to running staff

as per the Report of the Wanchoo Committee. (3)].

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,11,84,000 in respect of Working Expenses—Operating Staff be reduced by Rs. 100/-."

[Inordinate delay caused to reinstate a large number of employees connected with the 19th September, 1968 strike. (4)].

SHRI NAMBIAR : Sir, unfortunately for us the Railway Minister, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, did not give a satisfactory reply yesterday to the discussion on the Demands of the Railways. He is a very pleasant Minister and he has taken charge of the railways with all the weight that he commands. We are very grateful to him for the approach which he makes, but as I have stated previously he is not advised properly by the Railway Board in these matters, particularly on the question of staff.

He stated yesterday that the railwaymen connected with the 19th September strike would be leniently dealt with as per the circular that is issued or is likely to be issued. Whatever be the circular or the tone of the circular that may be issued by the Home Ministry, being at the head of such a big industrial undertaking employing 14 lakhs of workers, he himself has to deal with his staff in a manner that will create confidence between the staff and himself. That alone will improve the conditions on the Railways.

As I have previously pointed out, there are about 3,500 railwaymen who are under suspension or were removed from service for various reasons. Temporary men who were paid off a month's salary, are not yet taken back. Cases which are pending in courts have not been withdrawn. Cases which are pending in the department have not yet been dropped and taken back. Therefore I submit once again that he should still more leniently look into the matter and see that all these men come back as early as possible.

My experience shows that he gives a sympathetic answer here but when we go and discuss the matter with the general

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.