

(c) the amount of grant paid during the previous years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the grant was reduced in the later years, if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the names of the educational institutions receiving grant or any other kind of aid in Hubli or elsewhere run by private managements on the Southern Railway since 1947?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) Grants were last paid to the School for the period upto July 1962. The payment of grants had to be suspended as certain particulars asked for from the school authorities were not furnished by them. Now some details have been received and arrangements have been made for payment of the grants upto August, 1964.

(c) The school was originally sanctioned a grant of Rs. 50 per mensem by the Staff Benefit Fund Committee of the ex-M.S.M. Railway and the grant is being continued at the same rate from Railway Revenues.

(d) No. The grant of Rs. 50 per mensem has not been reduced.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4269/65].

Diesel Engines

2587. Shri Mohsin: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of drivers, firemen and other personnel are facing danger of being thrown out of employment due to the introduction of diesel engines in some parts of the Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, the remedy contemplated to secure their jobs?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

12.05 hrs.

Re. DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday when you very kindly allowed Question No. 744 in connection with dearness allowance to the Central Government employees, the hon. Finance Minister very kindly came back to this House and he announced that Government would take a week more to announce a final decision...

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I have said that within a week I will announce the decision.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I was extremely happy about that. But in today's newspapers—my fear was correct—something has come. As I felt yesterday that things would come out in the newspapers and the House would be reduced to a post mortem House, it has happened. The *Times of India* says: Increased Dearness allowance for Government staff...

Mr. Speaker: It is in the paper.

Shri A. P. Sharma (Buxar): Is he not happy?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is no question of happiness. My points are two. Firstly, if the Government took the decision yesterday and it has appeared in the newspapers today, was it fair on their part to have ignored this House and announce it outside for the newspapers? If the newspapers have scooped it, I congratulate them for doing so. Even the table of rates is given there. It says there is an increase of Rs. 5 for the lowest salary and that the additional expenditure is about Rs. 25 crores...

Mr. Speaker: Everybody had seen that; it has appeared in the paper.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether he would be announc-

ing it now. Secondly, I want to ask whether he is going to make the same mistake of giving only Rs. 5 to the lowest category of employees who are very much agitated.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to submit that when I said yesterday that I would announce a decision within a week, I did not mean that we had not considered it. As a matter of fact, Government servants, innumerable thousands of them, are interested in this matter and files have been going up and down for over a month and everybody knows that something is happening. I had to get some clearance from my colleagues and I placed certain proposals before them yesterday. The final form has to be drafted and I can certainly say that I will place it on the Table of the House on Monday before it is finally issued. It will be issued only thereafter. I am not in a position now to go into the details of what I am going to say because the final form is still in the stage of formulation. Of course there is nothing very difficult to guess in this matter. The broad pattern is known; it is laid down. We may make some variations in it. But broad patterns are known. Anybody can make a calculation. I would only submit that so far as I am concerned, once I take a decision, I will certainly make an announcement in the House before I give it to anybody else and I can assure the House that I will place a statement on the Table of the House on Monday morning.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, on a clarification. I am happy that the hon. Finance Minister is going to make the announcement on Monday. But my point is this. There are certain variations.

Mr. Speaker: He says he will take the decision and announce it here on Monday. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Why should they get impatient, I do not know. Kindly listen to me.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Banerjee should address me.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They are provoking me. I am a hungry man today; why should they provoke me? I request the Finance Minister, through you, Sir, to tell us whether these slabs as reported in the press are correct—whatever has appeared. I want to know whether the Finance Minister will take note of the fact that there is a growing discontent among the low-paid staff, and if it is a fact that the increase is going to be only Rs. 5 in their case, whether it is not just adding insult to injury.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has heard all that.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampur): I gave a calling attention notice....

Mr. Speaker: That can be known.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: Thousands of defence employees will be on hunger strike from today and tomorrow, and the hon. Minister of Defence should tell us....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: It is a very simple question. I expect at least a statement from the Defence Minister.

Mr. Speaker: He cannot ask for it in this manner.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AGREEMENT re. FIFTH STEEL PLANT IN INDIA

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): I beg to lay