

Pancharatna-Daranggri Railway Project

2690. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the State Government of Meghalaya urging the Union Government to commission Pancharatna—Daranggri railway project during the early part of 6th plan and extend the project at last up to WAGEASI in the Garo Hills District;

(b) if so, whether the matter is receiving sympathetic consideration of Government; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). Yes. Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a B.G. rail link between Jogighopa/Panchratna and Daranggiri via Wageasi has been carried out during 1974-75 and the survey reports are under examination. The decision regarding taking up this project would depend upon the results of the examination of Survey Reports and availability of resources.

Appointment to Class IV Posts on Railways

2691. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for selection/appointment of employees for class IV posts;

(b) the number of Return Delivery Porters appointed over Allahabad Division during Emergency and thereafter against the existing vacancies;

(c) whether these porters were appointed as per length of their service and/or on seniority basis;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of porters were appointed who had no previous record of service in Railways but they had to be absorbed as certain high officials were interested in these appointments; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in the matter to remedy the situation with a view to ensure justice to the real claimants who were deliberately ignored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Almost all the Class IV vacancies are filled from among casual labour/substitutes after screening. Those who have longer service get priority.

(b) 4 persons were appointed as Substitutes.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) These persons will not be appointed in the regular Class IV cadre unless and until they are screened along with other Substitutes and Casual Labour.

Oil find in Nagaland

2692. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and Natural Gas Commission has struck oil in a District of Nagaland recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details available about this?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has drilled three wells on the Borholla structure falling in the Wokha district of Nagaland. All the three wells have proved to be oil bearing.