

(ii) Repayment of C.D.S. deposits to the staff of F.T.A. Office affected by floods in Delhi area.

(iii) Special casual leave for F.T.A. Office staff remaining absent due to floods.

(iv) Cancellation of transfer orders of staff of F.T.A. Office.

(v) Shortage of staff.

(vi) Posting of staff in Base Kitchen at New Delhi.

**F.A. & C.A.O.'s Office, Western Railway**

2329. SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURANDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state total number of hamals working in the F.A. & C.A.O.'s Office of the Western Railway at Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): There is no separate cadre of Hamals in the office of the F.A. & C.A.O. Western Railway, Bombay. The combined sanctioned cadre of Peons/Hamals/Khalasis etc. in the scale of Rs. 196—232 (RS) is 78.

**Wireless Operators**

2330. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Wireless Operators who remained stagnated in all Indian Railways in the prescribed scales and authorised scales;

(b) the total number of Wireless Operators who are stagnated in revised scales since 1975 on all India Railway; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove stagnation in scales of pay of Wireless Operators on all India Railways?

3340 LS—7

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Telecommunication on Maintainers (Trainees)**

2331. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of posts set aside, percentage for direct recruitment from open market; for filling up the categories of Telecommunication Maintainers (Trainees), Wireless Instrument Mechanics and Electrical Signal Maintainers on Southern Railway;

(b) the total number of vacancies in each category in each Division unit available for direct recruitment from open market; and

(c) the reason for not filling up the vacancies for several years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). There is provision for filling up 50 per cent of the vacancies in the category of Telecom Maintainers, Wireless Mechanics and Electrical Signal Maintainers in scale Rs. 260—400 by direct recruitment. As these are artisan categories direct recruitment is resorted to only after trade testing and promoting all eligible staff in lower grades. In Mysore Division of Southern Railway 5 vacancies of Telecom Maintainers, 2 vacancies of Wireless Mechanics and 2 of Electrical Signal Maintainers have arisen recently which have been earmarked for direct recruitment. One vacancy of Telecom Maintainer and the two vacancies of wireless Mechanics have been filled by recruitment. Action is being taken to fill the remaining vacancies.