

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 29,499 persons were recruited against normal vacancies in the Class III and Class IV cadres on the regrouped Railways. This does not include the number of persons recruited to Class IV vacancies on the Eastern and Western Railways.

(b) There was no retrenchment as a result of regrouping of Railways and hence the question of giving priority to such retrenched personnel does not arise.

SUGAR

***374. Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to notice of Government that in spite of the fact that the Government of India decided to release double the quota of sugar in January 1953, good quality of sugar has disappeared from the markets in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the reasons; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Good quality sugar had not disappeared from the markets in Delhi and Bombay but was available at slightly higher prices.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

"X BRANCH"

***376. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Section called "X Branch" in the Watch and Ward Department in the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, what are the functions of this Section; and

(c) whether such "X Branch" Sections are on other Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). The reference is presumably to the Security organisation on Railways. It is not in the public interest to furnish any details.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT BAGDOGRA

***383. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what are the medical facilities available to the employees of the Meteorological Department at Bagdogra Air Port?

(b) How many representations for the setting up of a medical centre there, have been received from the employees?

(c) Has any enquiry been made into the report that the majority of the staff at Bagdogra are suffering from malaria and Kala-azar?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is a Government Health Centre with 10 beds at a distance of one mile from the India Meteorological Department staff quarters at Bagdogra.

(b) None.

(c) No such report has been received.

ADVISERS FROM INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

***384. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether two experts from the International Civil Aviation Organisation named Mr. Le Comte and Mr. Siakot were invited to India as "advisers" and what was the period of their stay?

(b) What were the installations they visited?

(c) What were the border aerodromes they visited?

(d) What were their recommendations for the improvement of air communications and aerodromes?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 29.]

TOURIST AIR TRAFFIC

***385. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what were the recommendations made by the Director General, Civil Aviation to encourage tourist air traffic in India?

(b) How have they been acted upon by the Air Companies?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A suggestion was made to the Air Transport Association of India and to Air India International for a reduction in air fares to encourage tourists traffic in India and for tourists visiting the South East Asia Region.