

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*1499. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some permanent vacancies in Class III and Class IV grades on the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway that are being filled by the relieving staff; and

(b) if so, the number of such vacancies and when they will be filled up by regular staff?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Class III—105.

Class IV—34.

Arrangements are in progress to fill these posts by regular staff and release the relieving staff.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know for how long these vacancies are there?

Shri Alagesan: For some of the vacancies that arose in 1954 we could not get candidates, because there was dearth of candidates going before the Railway Service Commission. But for vacancies in the posts of station masters and assistant station masters, candidates have been chosen, and they are under training now, and they will be available by the first week of May. Certain other posts also will be filled up by the beginning of April.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It was stated by the hon. Minister of Railways during the Budget Debate that there was a proposal to increase the age of retirement from 55 to 60 or something more. At what stage is that proposal?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know how that question arises. But there is no such proposal.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: That question arises because to fill up shortage

in the recruitment, they wanted to increase the age of retirement.

Shri Alagesan: This is a question of permanent posts being filled up by relieving staff, until such time as permanent staff are recruited. These recruitments are made in the lower rungs.

TUBE-WELLS

*1501. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the number of tube-wells sunk in each State during the last three years?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement, showing the number of tube-wells drilled during the last three years under schemes of large scale tube-well construction for irrigation, sponsored by the Government of India, is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 51.]

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: I find from the statement laid on the Table, that there have been no tube-wells sunk in West Bengal during the financial year 1954-55; and from the Food Ministry's Report also, I find that none are proposed to be sunk in 1955-56. Is that so?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is correct, because West Bengal did not figure in the agreement and in the proposal for digging tube-wells.

Shrimati Ila Palchowdhury: Considering the large influx of refugees and the question of clean drinking water being an absolute emergency question, will Government take up the matter of sinking tube-wells in Bengal now?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would be very costly and luxurious to dig tube-wells of this type for providing drinking water.

श्री एम० एम० शिबरी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो ट्यूब वेल्ल रज्यों में लगाए गए हैं क्या वह सफलतापूर्वक कार्य कर रहे