

at Rs. 8-00 per maund and the other at Rs. 7-55 per maund.

Advance Increments to Officers of N.F. Railway

320. Shri Priya Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gazetted Officers of N.F. Railway have been given three advance increments;

(b) if so, under what circumstances; and

(c) why the Class III and Class IV staff are deprived of this benefit?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The setting up of the N.F. Railway necessitated staffing the new Railway with picked Gazetted Officers of other Indian Government Railways, who could not have expected that their liability for service would cover specifically the limits of the present N.F. Railway.

(c) Non-Gazetted staff continue to be employed throughout in Assam only and are getting compensatory and bad climate allowances and as such this concession was not extended to them.

Casual Labour in Engineering Workshop at Bangaigaon (N.F. Rly.)

321. Shri Priya Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment of casual labourers in the railway workshops which are governed by the Factory Act is allowed;

(b) if so, under what conditions;

(c) why casual labourers are employed in continuous service in Engineering Workshop at Bangaigaon in N.F. Railway for years together and not yet fixed up in scale (C.P.C./A.S.) as applicable to the regular labour;

(d) why most of them who have been working for years together could not be confirmed though there are vacancies in regular cadre;

(e) what is the rate of pay of these casual labourers; and

(f) what is the total number of casual labourers Railway-wise, Department-wise, category-wise and by years of service?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No conditions have been laid down indicating the circumstances in which casual labour can be employed in Railway workshops.

(c) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Winter allowance to employees in Darjeeling

322. Shri Priya Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have extended Winter Allowance to its staff employed in the hills in the Darjeeling district; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to extend Winter Allowance to Railway employees and the other Central Government employees there?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The notification issued by the Government of West Bengal has come to the notice of the Government of India very recently and the matter will be given due consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.