

of 1964-65, it is proposed to purchase about 70,000 Metric Tons of Steel (approximate cost Rs. 4.3 crores) from abroad which represents only a small proportion of the total requirements of Indian Railways for this period.

(c) Due to the materials not being available indigenously in some cases and due to the indigenous capacity not being adequate for others.

Railway Doctors

563. { Dr. S. K. Saha:
Shri Sudhansu Das:
Shri G. K. Singha:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are disparities regarding pay scale, promotion and official designation as gazetted and non-gazetted officers at the time of appointment of Doctors on Railways and those under the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the disparities and the steps Government are taking to remove such disparities?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Both on the Civil side and on the Railways, Doctors are recruited initially as Assistant Surgeons. While on the Civil side, they are in Class II and allotted the scale of Rs. 325—25—500—30—590—EB—30—800 plus non-practising allowance at the rate of 25 per cent of the pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 150 and a maximum of Rs. 400, on the Railways they are recruited in Class III and allotted the scale of Rs. 335—20—475—25—575—EB—25—850 plus restricted non-practising allowance at the rate of 20 per cent of the pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 125. These Assistant Surgeons on the Civil side get further promotion to the extent of 33.1|3 per cent of the posts in Class I and the remaining 66.2|3 per cent of Class I posts are filled by direct recruitment. On the

Railways, these Assistant Surgeons are given honorary gazetted status on completion of 5 years service and are eligible for further promotion as Assistant Medical Officers Class II. These Assistant Medical Officers can seek further promotion to the extent of 33.1|3 per cent of the posts of Class I District Medical Officers and the remaining 66.2|3 per cent of posts of District Medical Officers are filled by direct recruitment. The disparities obtaining between the Civil and the Railway Medical Departments are due to the entirely different circumstances obtaining on the Railways where, to quote an example, it is not possible to prohibit private practice completely as has been done on the Civil side. The Railways being the biggest employer there is an unusually large number of Doctors in service on the Railways and, therefore, it will not be possible to have the whole lot of them in the gazetted cadre. The Jagannadha Das Pay Commission went into this question and have accepted the position of Doctors as obtaining on the Railways and have commented that Railways happen to be the biggest employer of medical staff under the Central Government. It is, therefore, not practicable to adopt the practices with regard to recruitment, promotion etc. obtaining on the Civil side on the Railways.

Oil as substitute for Coal

564. { Shri R. G. Dubey:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri D. D. Puri:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank Study Team has expressed the opinion that oil would be more economical than coal over large tracts in India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?