

(b) The following steps have been taken:

(1) No excise duty is levied on yarn in handloom form in which it is consumed by the handloom industry for counts less than 29 Nt and for 29 Nt and above the rates of duty have been fixed at levels lower than the corresponding rates of yarn in non-handloom form in which yarn is consumed by the mill sector.

(2) A rebate is given on the sales of handloom cloth affected by the Co-operative sector at the rate of 5 paise per Rupee. Special additional rebates are also allowed on the sales of handloom cloth during specific periods in a year.

Attendants Attached to Trains

4990. Shri Shiv Chandika Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the duties and responsibilities of the attendants provided for 1st class compartments on the Railways;

(b) whether there have been any complaints about their failure to discharge their duties and responsibilities to the satisfaction of the travelling passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve their service?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [P. 10287] in Library. See No. LT-964/67].

(b) A few complaints have been received.

(c) Attendants work under control of the Conductor Guard wherever available or the train Guard who supervises his work. Checks are conducted by Supervisory officials to ensure that the attendants perform their duties. All complaints are thoroughly enquired into and severe punishment meted out in proven cases.

Shortage of Accommodation in Third Class Sleeper Coaches

4991. Shri Shiv Chandika Prasad: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Armed Forces Personnel travel in 1st class from Secunderabad to Delhi to avail their leave and they have to face acute shortage of accommodation for their families in Third Class Sleeper Coach and Third Class Coaches;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide composite 1st class and third class three-tier coaches for these personnel to lessen their anxieties during travel; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to provide to these personnel travelling facilities similar to those available to the Railway staff?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) A small number of Armed Force Personnel travel daily from Secunderabad to Delhi but it is not true that they face acute shortage of accommodation for their families in third class sleeper and third class coaches.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) No special facilities in regard to train accommodation have been provided for Railway staff. The following reservation quotas have been allotted for the use of Defence Personnel ex-Hyderabad and Secunderabad to New Delhi/Delhi:—

Train No.	First Class	III Class (Seats)
19. Dn. Hyderabad-Kazipet Exp./15 Dn. G. T. Express (In through coaches)	4	20
48 Dn. Hyderabad-Puri Fast Passenger/ 17 Dn. Madras-Delhi Janta Express (In through coach)	—	20

In addition, Defence Personnel and their families can also reserve both First Class and Third Class sleeper berths from the general quota along with other passengers.