

have already been concluded and shipments are being effected as scheduled.

Petition by Railway Chargemen and Foremen

3455. Shri S. C. Besra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a petition signed by a large number of Chargemen and Foremen working on the Indian Railways has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, their main demands; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remove their grievances?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) The main demand was regarding increase in their scales of pay.

(c) Their demands were examined but the Government did not find any justification for accepting them.

Overtime Allowance to Chargemen and Foremen

3456. Shri S. C. Besra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Overtime compensation is allowed to the Foremen and Chargemen in the Ordnance Factories and to even those who are under the Incentive Scheme, but the same is denied to the Foremen and most of the Chargemen on the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Loco Shed, Arkonam

3457. Shri S. K. Sambandhan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unhealthy conditions in the Loco Sheds at Arkonam;

(b) whether the workers are exposed to sun and rain; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) The conditions in the Loco Shed at Arkonam are not unhealthy.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Engineering Workshops at Arkonam

3458. Shri S. K. Sambandhan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in the Engineering Workshops at Arkonam;

(b) whether any drinking water facilities have been arranged for these workers; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) 2,676.

(b) Yes.

(c) 18 water taps and one water cooler are provided.

Workshop at Arkonam Engineering Workshop

3459. Shri S. K. Sambandhan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Workshops have been constructed at Arkonam Engineering Workshop areas;

(b) if so, when they were completed;

(c) whether the present Workshops have been moved into these new places; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Five new buildings to house certain existing shops have