

November, 1967 suggested several changes in the steel price structure and distribution system and demanded reorganisation of the Joint Plant Committee;

(b) if so, the precise suggestions made by the said Council; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). At the meeting held on the 22nd November, 1967 the Standing Committee of the Iron and Steel Advisory Council appointed a Sub-Committee which is now examining suggestions regarding pricing and distribution of steel as well as the future functioning of the Joint Plant Committee. The details will be considered if the Sub-Committee submits its report.

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE TO DRIVERS AND GUARDS

4578. SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the reasons for laying down different rates of mileage allowance for Drivers Grade 'C' and Guard Grade 'B' who are in the same scales of pay viz. Rs. 150—240 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): The duties and responsibilities of Drivers and Guards are not comparable. In view of this a straight comparison of their Mileage Allowance rates is not appropriate.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TO CONDUCTORS AND GUARDS

4579. SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Conductor in Grade Rs. 205—280 is paid Rs. 4.50 per day as T.A. which represents only out-of-pocket expenses and the Guards of the same Grade are paid Rs. 3.60 a day which represents 60% out of pocket expenses plus 40% incentive; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). When they go out on line, Conductors are paid T.A., the existing rate for the pay slab Rs. 205—280 being Rs. 4.50 per day. In the case of Running Staff, which includes the category of Guards, they are not paid T.A. but Mileage Allowance bases on the actual mileage run, which provides for both the T.A. element and the incentive element. Guards Grade 'A' are paid Mileage Allowance at the rate of Rs. 2.25 per 100 Kilometres. On an average the daily mileage earnings of Guards Grade 'A' are more than the T.A. earned by the Conductors. The rate of Rs. 3.60 per day represents the allowance in lieu of mileage which is paid to Guards Grade 'A' when they are occasionally required to perform non-running duties for example attending law courts, departmental examinations etc.

'A' & 'B' GRADE RAILWAY GUARDS

4580. SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to overlapping scales of pay, majority of 'A' & 'B' Grade Guards remain blocked on the meagre maximum pay of their scales partly for want of proper avenues of promotions and partly due to their becoming over-age by the time they get even 'B' Grade and therefore most of them retire on the same blocked pay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a 'B' Grade Guard is unable to get promotion in his own cadre due to 'A' Grade being selection post with a meagre percentage of posts existing and even in the out of cadre post because of his being already overage;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the emoluments of the posts of R.T.As., AYMs and Section Controllers being lesser, majority of 'B' Gr. Guards do not feel inclined to even appear in the selections for these posts as they do not consider it to be their promotion, rather a demotion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The posts of Guards Grade 'A' are created not on the basis of a percentage but on the basis of the number of mail and express trains running. The posts of Guards Grade 'A' are open only to Guards Grade 'B' and no age limit is laid down for promotion.

It is correct that age limit is in force for eligibility for promotion to certain categories of ex-cadre posts for which laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). The scale of pay of the Guards Grade 'B' is Rs. 150—240, while the scale of pay applicable to the other categories referred to is Rs. 250—380. Since the Guards are also eligible for running allowance, it is possible that a percentage of them may not be willing to be considered for appointment to the grade of Rs. 250—380, but the majority of Guards should be anxious to get promoted to this cadre as their pay is fixed taking into account their pay plus 40% of pay representing running allowances. Further advancement is also available.

TRANSFER OF PASSENGER GUARDS

4581. **SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kripalani Commission had suggested the transfer of commercial and other category of staff also after a stay of more than 5 years at a particular place as is done in respect of Passenger Guard; and

(b) if so, the justification for transferring only the Passenger Guards under this scheme even when their area of operation remains unchanged and accommodation is not made readily available to them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, there was a recommendation stating that the orders on the subject which were already existing should be rigidly observed.

(b) Not only Passenger Guards but also Special Ticket Examiners, Traveling Ticket Examiners, Commercial Clerks, Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters are also to be transferred periodically under the scheme in accordance with the orders on the subject. Anyhow, the Scheme of periodical transfers is being kept in abeyance as a temporary measure for the year 1968.

PAY SCALES OF RAILWAY GUARDS

4582. **SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum signed by about 45 Members of the Parliament was submitted to him in support of the demands of Railway Guards for the revision of pay scales and allowances and for improved channel of promotions; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON FESTIVALS

4583. **SHRI LOBO PRABHU** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of trains are cancelled and/or put back on important festivals, e.g. Dussehra, Diwali and Holi;

(b) if so, the number of trains cancelled for want of staff over the Indian Railways on Dussehra festivals on the 12th October 1967; and

(c) whether Government propose to make some extra payment to the Running Staff in order to keep the trains running even during such important festivals as was the practice before Independence for keeping the Staff on duty on Sundays, Christmas and Good Friday?