

**INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERS ON
RAILWAYS**

5636. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Railway Administrations which have introduced computers;

(b) the total number of employees that have become surplus with the introduction of computer system on the Railways; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to absorb the surplus employees ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Computers have been installed on four Zonal Railways—viz. Central, Southern, Western & Northern and in three Production Units—viz Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Integral Coach Factory/Perambur and Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

(b) No employee has become surplus on this account. Over a period of time, however, when the computer takes on some work now done manually, a few employees may be released from their present jobs and utilised on other jobs.

(c) Does not arise.

**TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES ON
RAILWAYS**

5637. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to cripple trade union activities on Railways;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware that many workers are being victimised and harassed for their legitimate trade union activities; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to ensure that such a victimisation is not done ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No. In fact the Railways have the tradition of operating a Permanent Negotiating Machinery with a number of facilities for furthering legitimate Trade Union activities.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**DHARNA BY CASUAL LABOURERS ON
NORTHERN RAILWAY**

5638. SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of former casual labourers of authorised scales are on Dharna before the office of the Divisional Supdt. N. Rly. since November 6, 1967, as a protest against retrenchment of working employees and their replacement by candidates recruited from open market ; and

(b) if so, the action taken to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes; six substitutes of Signal Telecommunication Department of Lucknow Division, Northern Railway, were on Dharna between 6th November, 1967 and 12th December 1967; and

(b) Since these substitutes were not eligible to be continued in service on account of their not having been empanelled as a result of selection, no action can be taken by the Railway Administration.

RAILWAY STAFF ON JODHPUR DIVISION

5639. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff on Jodhpur Division of the Western Railway has not been given the benefit of higher grade from 1st April, 1956 against 20 per cent vacancies reserved for Graduates as per orders of the Railway Board ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to upgrade the staff against the above vacancies ?

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

**AUSTERITY TYPE SCHOOLS NEAR
RAILWAY COLONIES**

5640. SHRI RAM SINGH AYARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether "Austerity type schools" have been provided by the Railways near the Railway colonies with a view to give educational facilities to the children of Railway employees near their colonies ;

(b) whether the number of pupils to be admitted in such school is limited to 50 for all the five classes ;

(c) whether the staff of such schools is limited to one teacher only ; and

(d) if so, what is the channel of promotion for such teachers and the reasons for putting the limit of 50 students only ?

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

(b) and (c). There is only one teacher in such schools, where the number of pupils is limited to 50.

(d) Such teachers are considered for promotion alongwith other teachers in traditional-type Primary schools in the same area. The number of children is restricted to 50 as the children have to be taught in different shifts by resorting to multiple teaching by one teacher.

TEXTILE MACHINERY INDUSTRY

5641. **SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textile Machinery Industry is ailing from under-utilisation ;

(b) whether this is the conclusion reached by the National Council of Applied Economic Research in its latest study; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to overcome this situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government are considering a number of measures like encouraging the textile mills to undertake rehabilitation and modernisation of their old and outmoded machinery and to implement expansion programmes. Avenues are also being explored to promote exports of textile machinery.

Besides, the following measures have been taken :

- (i) Imports of textile machinery has been reduced to the minimum.
- (ii) Importation of machinery on the ground of their better of efficiency/performance than of similar Indian machinery is not ordinarily allowed.
- (iii) For assisting domestic market sales banks have been required not to charge more than 8% for deferred payments which have extended upto seven years in deserving cases.
- (iv) Restriction under credit arrangements for rediscounting facilities fixed by the Industrial Development Bank has been increased from Rupees 25 Lakhs per year per unit to Rupees 50 Lakhs.
- (v) To stimulate the flow of credit for exports, banks have been asked not to charge more than six percent in respect of credit and 8% in the case of packing credit advance.
- (vi) Industrial Development Bank's export credit has been extended to seven years in deserving cases and up to 10 years in very special cases.

The above measures are expected to lead to increase in the demand for textile machinery which in turn will result in fuller utilisation of the capacity of the textile machinery industry.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANIES TO POLITICAL PARTIES

5642. **SHRI M. L. SONDHI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a study of 126 leading public companies has revealed that about Rs. 1.1 crore were contributed to various political parties in the last general elections ;

(b) whether the said study has also revealed that 73.7 % of these funds went to Congress Party and 25.2% to Swatantra Party; and

(c) whether there was any directive by Government to the companies to contribute funds to Congress Party ?