

Shortfall in quota of S/C in grades of P.W.Ls. and P.W.Ms. (Northern Railway)

2569. SHRI R. L. KUREEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to make good the shortfall in the quota of Scheduled Castes in the cadres of PWIs Grade I, Grade II, Grade III and PWM in Northern Railway;

(b) whether any special steps are being taken to ascertain the correctness of figures of shortfall of quota of scheduled castes employees in the Railways submitted by the departmental officers; and

(c) whether in the whole of Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, there are only two scheduled caste APWIs whereas the total strength of APWIs is more than 50 and there are only two scheduled castes Permanent Way-Mistries out of a total strength of 75?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) On Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, the strength of Permanent Way Inspectors Grade III (Previously designated as Asstt. Permanent Way Inspectors) and Permanent Way Mistries as on 1st April, 1977 was as under:

	Total strength	No. of Sch. Castes
Permanent Way Inspectors Gr. III	54	1
Permanent Way Mistries	38	Nil

Price of wheel set manufactured in Wheel and Axle Unit of Durgapur Steel Plant

2570. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been giving a price of just Rs. 2,750 per wheel set to the wheel and axle unit of Durgapur Steel Plant while its cost is near three times to the plant;

(b) whether Government are aware that imported price of a wheel set which the railways used to import, is even higher around Rs. 10,000; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE):

(a) The price of wheel set paid by the Railways, is Rs. 3116 per wheel set of 20.3 tonne exclusive of duties as approved by the Government on the basis of proposals submitted by the Department of Steel in accordance with their dual pricing policy.

(b) and (c). The price of imported wheels includes ocean freight, insurance and custom duty. The import is resorted to only when the indigenous producers are unable to meet the demands.

The price to be paid to the Durgapur Steel Plant has been examined by the Ministry of Steel and Railways and a provisional price of Rs. 4,308 for 20.3 tonne wheel set has been fixed subject to verification by the Chief Cost Accounts Officer of the Ministry of Finance and approved by Cabinet.

Construction of Diva-Basin Railway in Maharashtra

2571. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of Diva-Basin Railway construction in Thana District of Maharashtra;