

**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;

(b) when the said project has been undertaken and when it is likely to be completed as per original schedule;

(c) whether the schedule is being kept-up, if not, what are the reasons; and

(d) when would the said project now to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Earth work and bridges are in progress. The overall progress is 32 per cent.

(b) The project was started in March 1973. As per the original schedule, the work was to be completed by 1st June, 1976.

(c) It has not been possible to keep to the schedule due to paucity of funds.

(d) The project is targetted for completion by March, 1980.

कांसा और भिलडी के बीच रेलवे लाइन का  
बिछाया जाना

2572. श्री मोतीभाई : रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कांसा-भिलडी रेलवे लाइन बिछाने के कार्य में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) इसका सर्वेक्षण कार्य कब पूरा हुआ था ; और

(ग) यह कार्य कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

रेल मंत्री (प्रो० मधु दण्डवते) : (क) से (ग). सम्भवतः माननीय सदस्य का आशय भिलडी कोसा रोड लाइन से है । भिलडी से कोसा रोड तक रेल लाइन बिछाने

के लिये कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया है और निर्माण के लिए इस परियोजना का अनुमोदन नहीं किया गया है ।

Victimisation of Parcel Porters at  
Allahabad Railway Station

2573. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD  
YADAV: Will the Minister of RAIL-  
WAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether memorandum dated 14th October, 1976 and 11th November, 1976 complaining victimisation of parcel porters working at Allahabad Railway Station under the Railway Station Porters' Cooperative Labour Contract Society, Limited, Allahabad were received in his Ministry; and

(b) if so, whether any action was initiated for redressal of grievances of parcel porters?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Society has been taken up for its failure and the matter is under further examination of the Administration.

Goods handling contracts

2574. SHRI JAGDAMI PRASAD  
YADAV: Will the Minister of RAIL-  
WAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether goods handling contracts are awarded to Labour Co-operative Societies on piece rate basis and such rates are being fixed by the Committee of three gazetted officers;

(b) whether any yardstick has been fixed by the Railway Board for observance by the Committee to enable workable and reasonable rates being fixed for each individual operation of the schedule;