

Improvement in Service condition of Staff

3170. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any steps for the substantial improvements in the service conditions of the staff; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAYATE): (a) Yes.

(b) Substantial improvements in the service conditions of Railway employees have been effected from time to time through the implementation of the recommendations of the three Pay Commissions and various decisions taken by the Government based on the recommendations or otherwise of Tribunals etc. The major improvements made during the last three years as a result of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission and the Railway Labour Tribunal (Miabhoy) and other decisions are:

- (1) There has been an upward revision in the pay scales of almost all the categories with effect from 1st January, 1973 as a result of introduction of new scales. This has particularly benefitted Class IV staff whose pay scales were fixed by Government at levels above those recommended by the Pay Commission.
- (2) Leave, retirement and pensionary entitlements have been liberalised.
- (3) Dearness Allowance has been sanctioned from time to time on the basis of price index.
- (4) Based on the recommendations of the Anomalies Committee,

the Revised Scales of pay recommended by the Third Pay Commission have been further improved for a number of categories benefitting nearly 60,000 staff.

- (5) Cadres of Class III and IV non-artisan categories have been restructured upgrading 41,000 posts to improve promotional prospects.
- (6) Selection grade posts have been created for the benefit of staff. In Class IV alone this would benefit 50,000 employees.
- (7) Terms and conditions of employment of casual labourers have been liberalised. Now on open line they get temporary status and monthly scales of pay after 120 days' service; on projects they get the scale rate of pay after 6 months.
- (8) Night duty and overtime allowances have been liberalised.

Oil Drilling in Saruinsar Area of Jammu

3171. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling for oil in the Saruinsar area of Jammu has been restarted; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). In the well already drilled in Saruinsar severe down hole complications, high pressures and temperature were encountered. ONGC has taken steps to acquire the requisite technology to drill deep wells under such conditions with a view to reuniting drilling operations in the area.