

Paror Railway Station

1151. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paror Railway Station on Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section is situated in an uninhabited area causing great inconvenience to the passengers and businessmen;

(b) if so, whether any representation in this regard has been received by the Railways; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No.

(b) and (c). The last representation for shifting Paror station was received in Nov. 1972 but this proposal was not found feasible on account of steep gradient and sharp curves at the proposed site.

Absorption of Casual Gangmen and Labourers

1152. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of casual gangmen and labourers have been working in the Railways since long;

(b) if so, the actual figures of such casual labourers, division-wise, mentioning their length of service as casual labourers; and

(c) the policy of Government regarding absorption of these casual labourers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes.

(b) The figures vary from day to day according to the requirements at various points on the Indian Railways; also the figures are maintained unit-

wise and not division-wise. At present approximately 2.5 lakhs of casual labourers are working on the Railways. Their length of service vary from a few days to over 10 years and it is not possible to give the length of service of each individual casual labour as the data is too voluminous and difficult to collect.

(c) At present vacancies in class IV posts on the Indian Railways are generally being filled by casual labourers after screening.

Electrification of Olavakkot-Trivandrum Section

1153. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal of electrification of Railway line between Olavakkot-Trivandrum Section falling in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the cost of Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No.

(b) However, on persistent demand of Kerala Government for electrification, the State Government's offer of Rs. 50,000 to bear the cost of cost-cum-feasibility survey for electrification of Olavakkot-Trivandrum section was accepted and survey taken up in 1976. Field survey work has been completed and Project Report is under compilation by the Southern Railway. Final decision in regard to electrification of the section will be taken on receipt of the project report and will depend upon availability of financial resources and inter-se priorities of all electrification projects.

The cost of electrification of Olavakkot-Trivandrum section will be known after the project report is finalised.