

[Translation]

SUBURBAN SERVICES IN BOMBAY

7862. Shri Datta Meghe : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to constitute an autonomous body for the Suburban Railway System in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Formation of an autonomous body for suburban railway system of Bombay is not feasible because the same infrastructure, i.e. track, signals, OHE, stations is used by suburban as well as the long distance trains

Moreover, intra urban transport needs are to be met by various modes of transport, including Railways. Only a coordinated approach can bring efficiency and improvement. This subject is being dealt with by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

[English]

APPOINTMENTS ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS

7863. Shri George Fernandes : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications for appointment on compassionate grounds for Group 'C' and 'D' pending till date and the applications received by Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway during the last three years,

(b) the number of appointments made out of them and time taken for issue of appointment orders in each case; and

(c) the reasons for non-appointment in the remaining cases ?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief) :
(a) On the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway, 447 applications are pending for Group 'C' and 'D' appointments on compassionate grounds. The number of applications received during the last three years being 841.

(b) Out of the 841 applications received, 367 were approved for appointment and concerned candidates given appointment, the time taken being approximately 9 to 12 months.

(c) Non-appointment in the remaining cases is due to various reasons like the wards being minor, documents awaited, non-availability of suitable vacancies particularly in the case of illiterate widows, etc.

UNIFORM SUGARCANE PAYMENT

7864. Shri Phool Chand Verma : Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories Ltd. has submitted a memorandum regarding uniform sugarcane payment system; and

(b) the action taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

The Minister of Food (Shri Ajit Singh) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

FISHING TRAWLERS

7865. Shri Khelan Ram Jangde : Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the fishing Trawlers presently in use in the country are very old;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government so far to obtain modern trawlers ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (Shri S. Krishna Kumar) : (a) to (c) It cannot be said that the fishing trawlers presently in use in the country are very old. Presently about 35,000 mechanised fishing vessels below 20 metre length are deployed for fishing up to 40-50 fathom depth and about 100 mechanised fishing vessels above 20 metre length are deployed for deep sea fishing.

With a view to modernisation of the fishing fleet in the marine sector Government has approved a scheme for acquisition of modern off-shore fishing vessels under joint venture/chartering and bilaterally assisted programmes. As per the present deep sea fishing policy second hand deep sea fishing vessels not more than 15 years old are allowed to be imported if the certificate of sea worthiness and Surveyor's report on the fitness of the vessel are produced. Under the new deep sea fishing policy of 1991, permissions have been accorded for introduction of 187 modern deep sea fishing vessels for operation in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, out of which 29 vessels have actually been introduced.