

vices and posts under the Government. He had also suggested that candidates who qualify in the final examination should be awarded a Bachelor's degree.

(b) and (c). As the matter concerns several agencies, especially those responsible for recruitment, these suggestions have been referred to them for consideration. No decision has been taken on it.

Memoranda from South Central Railway Employees' Union, Vijayawada

262. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has received two Memoranda dated 26 and 29 December, 1984 from South Central Railway Employees' Union, Vijayawada ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Memorandum dated 26.12.1984, the Union has demanded regular absorption of women casual labour working in the Engineering Department of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway. In the second Memorandum dated 29.12.1984, the Union has demanded that instead of appointing the candidates from the panel formed in 1982, casual labour of the adjoining Vijayawada Division, numbering 1600, may be appointed against the vacancies directly in Wagon Repair Shop at Guntapalli.

As regards the first demand, women casual labour are absorbed in regular employment with reference to the length of their employment as casual labour and against regular posts for which they are found suitable.

So far as the second demand is concerned, there is no provision in extant instructions for direct adsorption by screening of casual labour in vacancies in Group D

posts in Workshops. However, the panel of 500 candidates formed for filling Group D vacancies in Guntapalli Workshop includes 290 casual labour who had applied in response to the employment notice for this recruitment. The empanelled candidates will be absorbed as and when regular vacancies arise during the currency of the panel.

It may also be mentioned that South Central Railway Employees' Union is not recognised on the Railways. Recognition has been given to two all-India labour federations. viz., All India Railwaymen's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, who represent all categories of railway employees. The issue regarding absorption of casual labour on the Railways is continuously under discussion with the two recognised federations in periodical meetings held under the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and Joint Consultative Machinery Schemes.

[Translation]

Primary Health Centres during Seventh Plan

263. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to provide health service to every Indian by the year 2000 A.D. ; and

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated and the number of Primary Health Centres proposed to be opened in the country for this purpose in the Seventh Five Year Plan so that this objective could be achieved and other measures being taken to provide medical facilities to all the citizens in every remote village ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steering Group on Health and Family Welfare has recommended establishment of 10,250 additional Primary health centres during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The number of Primary Health Centres to

be opened and the funds to be allocated for the same has not yet been finalised.

[English]

Compensation to Travelling Passengers

264. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways pay compensation to passengers who die or receive grievous injury while travelling due to jolt received by them during the shunting of the train etc. ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake liability to compensate a passenger in such cases as is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act and Motor Vehicles Act ; and

(d) whether Government propose to redefine the term 'accident' making it wider so as to undertake liability to compensate a passenger who suffers harm resulting from the working of a Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Section 82-A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 specifies the liability of Railway Administration in respect of accident to train carrying passengers. Such liability to pay compensation for death, injury and loss of property of passengers is confined to an accident being either a collision between trains or derailment or other accident to a train or any part of a train carrying passengers. This liability is absolute without proof of any wrongful act, neglect or default on the part of the Railway Administration for such accident. There is, of course, no bar to enforce a claim for compensation in other cases where a wrongful act, neglect or default on the part of the Railway Administration is proved under the Law of the Land.

(c) and (d). No Sir.

Help to Widows without Means of Livelihood

265. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large-number of women get widowed even while their children are very young and find themselves without means of livelihood ;

(b) whether her Ministry has evolved schemes to help such widows and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to help such unfortunate and helpless women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no separate schemes for widows as such. However, there are certain schemes under which assistance is given for destitute women for their economic rehabilitation. Widows are also covered under these schemes. Such schemes being implemented by the Ministry are mentioned below :

(i) Under the Scheme of Assistance for setting up Women's Training Centres, destitute women are given training with the objective of rehabilitating them economically by imparting them training in skills. Assistance is also given for the dependent children of such widows.

(ii) Under the Scheme of Assistance to projects sponsored by public undertakings, corporations and autonomous organisations, assistance is given for training of women with the express purpose of providing them sustained employment. In identifying beneficiaries for this programme, widows, as a category are given preference.