

(b) A representation was received from the President, Janata Party, Town Organization, Arkonam for rebuilding the road under-bridge at Palanipet and he has been advised that as the road under-bridge is in a satisfactory condition, it does not require rebuilding.

(c) As per extant rules, proposals for widening of the existing road under-bridges to cater to the increased road traffic are considered subject to the State Government/Local Authority's bearing the entire cost thereof. No firm proposal has so far been received either from the State Government or the Arkonam Municipality for the widening of the road under-bridge at Arkonam.

Assistant Officers in Railway administration

3683. SHRI R. D. GATTANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of Class I Officers known as 'Assistant Officers' in the Railway Administration who were recruited by the Union Public Service Commission through the process of interview 10 to 22 years ago and who for no fault of theirs are still temporary;

(b) if so, their number;

(c) whether persons recruited years after them by the same Commission on the same or similar posts through written examination have been made senior to them and for what reasons; and

(d) when do the Government propose to confirm the services of the above mentioned temporary officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). 1089 Temporary Officers who were neither in Class I nor in Class II i.e., "Unclassified" were recruited from 1955 to 1968 and only 303 of them are now left to be confirmed in Class I/ Junior Scale.

(c) Officers recruited directly against permanent Class I cadre on the basis of the Competitive Examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission have been confirmed.

(d) The Government have recently increased substantially, the annual quota for confirmation in Class I/ Junior Scale of Temporary Officers. It is expected that the remaining officers would be confirmed in about 4 years time.

It is also proposed to absorb permanently a number of these officers in Indian Railway Stores Service and Indian Railway Personnel Service.

Sleeper Bogies on Manmad Zone

3684. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that the Minister proposes to increase the number of sleeper bogies on MANMAD zone from Ahmednagar or not, if so, please indicate the exact plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Distribution of Ammonium Sulphate by F.C.I.

3685. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principle of distribution of Ammonium Sulphate to the dealers of Orissa by the F.C.I. of India limited is in keeping with the policy of F.C.I. towards other States;

(b) whether there was any discrepancy in the total quantity of Ammonium sulphate supplied to Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh during last two years; and

(c) whether the dealerships of some have been cancelled in Orissa during emergency without any reason and rhyme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

बिहार का पिछड़ा क्षेत्र

3686. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को जानकारी है कि बिहार के संताल परगना जिले के आदिवासी क्षेत्र के मेहरामा महागामा तथा बुझारी जोर ब्लॉकों में 22 मील के क्षेत्र में 44,000 मिलियन टन कोयला (ईस्टर्न कोल फील्ड्स लिमिटेड), बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में चाइना क्ले स्टोन चिप्स जंगल की साबि घास, बीडी के पत्ते आदि के विनाश निक्षेप हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस पिछड़े परन्तु खनिज सम्भावनाओं से परिपूर्ण आदिवासी क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइनों न बिछाना राष्ट्रीय हित के विरुद्ध है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस क्षेत्र को आगामी वर्ष की योजना में शामिल किया जायेगा ; और

(घ) क्या प्रस्तावित भागलपुर-देवघर लाइन (बरास्ता पीटपैती तथा लखनटिया) को हैजरीहा लाइन से जोड़ना उच्युक्त होगा ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) : (क) से (घ). बिहार के संताल परगना जिला में खनिज निक्षेपों के सम्बन्ध में सरकार अज्ञात है। मंदारहिल से दुमका, दुमका से सैथिया, दुमका से वैद्यन यधाम (देवघर), दुमका से मधुपुर और दुमका से रामपुरहाट तक एक नयी बड़ी लाइन के लिए टोह इंजीनियरिंग

सहित यातायात सर्वेक्षण किया गया। मंदारहिल, और वैद्यनायधाम (देवघर) के बीच एक सीधी बड़ी लाइन बिछाने के सर्वेक्षण को रेलवे के इस वर्ष के बजट में सम्मिलित किया गया है और उसे शीघ्र ही शुरु किया जायेगा। पीरपैती रेल के पहले ही जुड़ा हुआ है और मंदारहिल और दुमका के बीच प्रस्तावित रेल लाइन से हंसडहा भी उससे जुड़ जायेगा। इन लाइनों के सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय अभी तक नहीं किया गया है।

Improvement in Railway Catering and vending Establishments

3687. SHRI S. K. SARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspectors/Managers and other employees of the Catering and Vending Establishments have their almost all meals and refreshments from the items daily cooked for supply to the travelling public;

(b) whether this has caused deterioration in the supply of cooked food articles to the travelling public; and

(c) what preventive steps are being taken to remedy the situation and to improve the quality of food articles supplied to the travelling public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) On the Southern Railway only, Managers, Assistant Managers, Cooks Bearers/Servers and Cleaners working in static catering units, who were appointed prior to 14th September, 1955 are being supplied free food on a prescribed scale as per their service conditions. The staff working in dining cars while they are on duty during the run of the trains are given food on prescribed scales and in lieu they are paid only half of the daily travelling allowance admissible to them under the rules. No other staff get free food from the catering establishments.