

is three hundred and thirty The number of officials amongst them in the pay scale of Rs. 500/- and above is one hundred and fifty six The number of officials belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes is as follows -

	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
In the pay scale less than Rs 500/-	17	18
In the pay scale of Rs 500/- and above	8	4

Due representation is given to reserved categories at the time of recruitment and relaxations are given in the following areas

(1) Age is relaxed by 5 years

(2) Percentage of marks in minimum qualifications is relaxed by 5 per cent

Due to non-availability of reserved category candidates some of the posts are filled by appointing candidates of general category. The total number of advertisements released in the press notifying vacancies since March, 1974 upto 9th November 1977 is 46 and all of these were simultaneously advertised in the Assam News-papers

With regard to proportions of persons belonging to the other minority communities and local people of Assam Government do not propose to collect this information as collection of such statistics is not in the interests of national integration

Contracts Awarded to S C. and S T on Northern Railway

1748 SHRI D AMAT Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons who have been awarded petty contracts on the Northern Railway during the last two years and

(b) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes who applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAN) (a) 20 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes have been awarded catering/vending contracts.

(b) 38 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes applied for the contracts. No person belonging to Scheduled Tribe applied for the contract

Conversion of Lines in Bihar into Broad Gauge Lines

1749 SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to convert Ara Sasaram and Fatuha-Islampur lines in Bihar into broad gauge lines and

(1) if so, the time by which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) No

(b) Does not arise

Collaboration Agreement with M/s Farmafin

1750 PROF R K AMIN Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether IDPL had taken approval of its Board of Directors and from the Cabinet before signing the collaboration agreement with M/s Farmafin,

(b) if not who is responsible for this lapse and irregularity, and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take for this lapse?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) The approval of the Board of Directors of IDPL was accorded on 21-3-77 to the collaboration agreement dated 6-12-76 with M/s Farmafin of Italy. The Board of Directors of IDPL were, however kept in the picture regarding the progress of negotiation at their meet-