

to rationalise and reduce the free concessional travel facilities enjoyed by railway staff particularly the gazetted officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Rationalisation in the matter of grant of free travel facilities for staff—both gazetted and non-gazetted—has been attempted from time to time. In fact, in respect of Class I and II officers the number which was unlimited was at one stage reduced to 12 sets of privilege passes in a year and subsequently to 6 sets. In respect of Class III and IV staff, where the entitlements were related to the years of service put in, it has been raised to 1 set of privilege pass for staff with service upto 5 years and 3 sets thereafter.

As these free travel facilities have been determined taking into consideration the conditions of service, including the incidence of All India postings in respect of officers, these assume the character of being part of service conditions and the Government do not propose to make any change in the existing scale of passes.

Constitution of Enquiry Committee to go into selections, promotions, postings etc. on N.E. Railway

8684. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level enquiry by vigilance or other department from Ministry's level is proposed to be made into the selections, promotions transfers, postings etc. done since 1962 and onwards specially in the Engineering department of North Eastern Railway;

(b) the reasons for transferring officers who have come from other railways quickly out of this railway and officers who are working since their appointment on this Railway manage to get their transfers cancelled; and

(c) whether a general policy of transferring officers in junior administrative grade and above after 5 years from one Railway to the other is proposed to be made for the North Eastern Railway?

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

(b) No rigid period of stay of officers at one place has been fixed and transfers are made as and when necessary keeping in view administrative requirements.

(c) Does not arise.

Passengers Inconvenienced at Lakshmi Kantpur Station

8685. SHRI MUKUNDA MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the station campus of Lakshmikantpur Stations in the Sealdah division has been utilised for making tents for the Railway-Protection Force causing difficulties to the passengers at large since long;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). No. However, a contingent of 10 men of West Bengal Police is camping there and is occupying the ladies waiting room and a portion of the Lakshmikantpur Station Campus. The contingent is camping at the Station in connection with anti robbery duties.

Expenditure on uniforms

8686. SHRI SUBHASH AHUJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Third Pay Commission in their report in Chapter