

cause it became clear that the concerned party was not involved in the alleged Restrictive Trade Practice. In the case of 18 inquiries orders have already been issued by the Commission. In one case Commission issued orders deciding certain preliminary issues and the final hearing is fixed for 3rd April, 1978. In 3 cases the inquiry is at final stage. In 4 cases the matter is still in the proceedings stage and in one case the report of the Director of Investigation is under examination of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

#### Requirement of SC & ST in Technical Services

5453. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a heavy shortfall of SC and ST in the recruitment categories of Technical Services like chargeman (Mech. Signaling and Elec.) Train Examiners, Diesel Mechanics, Traffic and Commercial Inspectors, Health Inspectors, etc., and that qualified ST candidates were not available;

(b) did Government therefore give relaxation for ST candidates to Western and other Railways by lowering the standard from Diploma Holders to Matriculates with Science; and

(c) if so, what progress has been made in the last two months especially when the crash programme has been announced by the Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). Due to non-availability of Scheduled Tribe candidates with diploma qualification for appointment to technical categories like Apprentice Mechanic, Apprentice Train Examiner, Apprentice Electrical

Chargeman, the quota reserved for them could not be filled. Therefore, the qualification prescribed for recruitment to these posts was relaxed to Matriculation with Science for Scheduled Tribe candidates. This dispensation was allowed for the appointments to be made during the period of the special programme launched on the Railways from 1st October, 1977 to 31st March, 1978 to wipe out the shortfall in the reserved quota in Class III and Class IV categories.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### सिक्किम, त्रिपुरा, मेघालय राज्यों में रेल सम्पर्क

5454. श्री राघवजी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सिक्किम, मेघालय, त्रिपुरा आदि राज्यों को रेल लाइन से जोड़ने सम्बन्धी प्रस्ताव सरकार को प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार प्रत्येक राज्य को रेल लाइन से जोड़ने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार करेगी ; और

(घ) इस बारे में सरकार को क्या कठिनाई है और उन कठिनाइयों को दूर करने की दिशा में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) : (क)से(घ). न्यू वोंगाईगांव से गुवाहाटी तक बड़ी लाइन के विस्तार का काम पहले से ही चालू है। इससे गुवाहाटी और देश के शेष भाग के बीच बड़ी लाइन की निर्बाध व्यवस्था हो जायेगी। उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र में पड़ने वाले राज्यों तक