

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Details of sitting and sleeping accommodation available on Indian Government Railways as on 31st March, 1977 were as under:—

Class	Number of	
	Seats	Berths
Air Conditioned .	3,309	3,309*
A.C. Chair-Car .	3,531	..
First	160,965	60,422*
Second	1,906,301	149,279*

*Included in seats also.

(b) The daily average number of Passengers carried on Indian Government Railways during 1976-77 was 9.04 millions.

Timings of Train No. 2ABQ

6377. **SHRI DURGA CHAND:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation has been given to the General Manager, Northern Railways and Divisional Superintendent Ferozpur about change in the timings of Train No. 2ABQ as to start from Qadian at 7.40 hours and to reach Amritsar at 9.30 hours by arranging cross with 3ABP at Verka; and

(b) if so what action has been or proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) With effect from 1-4-78, 2ABQ has been scheduled to leave Qadian at 7.20 hours and arrive Amritsar at 9.25 hours after crossing 3ABP at Verka instead of Kathunangal.

Rules regulating Service conditions of R.D.S.O. Employees

6378. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are those rules which regulate the Service Conditions of the all workmen, employed in the R.D.S.O. and where are those contained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): The employees of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation are governed by the relevant provisions contained in the Indian Railway Establishment Code Volumes I & II and other rules and orders issued by the Ministry of Railways from time to time.

Minority Representative Associations Recognised

6379. **SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are these rules under which the Minority Representative Association had been recognised and the law under which these rules were framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No Association representative of minorities i.e., formed on the basis of any caste, tribe or religious denominations or of any group or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination has been recognised.

Alleged Discrimination against Casual Workmen

6380. **SHRI ROBIN SEN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the discrimination being exercised with the casual workmen from those on the regular temporary establishment under Chapter XXII of the Railway Manual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Casual labourers are engaged for works of intermittent, sporadic and urgent

nature such as flood damages etc. They are generally on daily rates of pay. However, the following concessions are given to them if they are contained for long periods:

(a) Those casual labourers who are employed in the open line establishments of the Indian Railways continuously for four months' in the same type of work are granted temporary status and are eligible for almost all the rights and privileges applicable to temporary railway employees such as leave, passes, P.T.Os etc. They are, however, not entitled to retirement benefits, advance etc.

(b) Casual labourers on projects are granted scale rate of pay on completion of 6 months' continuous service, but not temporary status, and are not entitled to the benefits mentioned in (a) above.

(c) Casual labourers are screened and absorbed against regular vacancies and thereafter they become regular Railway employees.

Temporary Casual Labourers

6381. SHRI SHYAMA PRASANNA BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the reasons for which all the temporary casual labourers already attained the status of Temporary Railway servant are not regularised as temporary regular railway servants strictly according to their seniority according to their length of service without any selection, based on their long experience of their working service on the same posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Casual labourers are engaged locally by Inspectors who are in charge of works without any selection. The normal rule is that there should be a selection before anyone enters regular Class IV service. In view of the

service put in by casual labourers, a special relaxation has been made in their favour that they need not be subjected to selection but need only be screened by a Screening Committee and absorbed in the order of their seniority as casual labour.

Treatment of Casual Labourers as Temporary

6382. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state how many of the Casual labourers have been treated as temporary railway servant in terms of Rule 2501 of the Indian Railway Establishment Manual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Employees with 15—20 Years' Service not Confirmed

6383. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the persons employed in the Indian Railways rendering more than 15—20 years of service are still not confirmed in their respective post and on the other hand persons employed much later have been confirmed;

(b) if so, whether as a result of this practice interest of some officers have been affected adversely;

(c) if so, the categories in which such discrepancies have been pointed out; and

(d) steps proposed to protect the interest of such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a)