

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)

Staff are confirmed against permanent post in their turn depending upon the availability of permanent posts.

(b) and (c). No discrepancies have come to the notice of the Government. There is no adverse effect because of non-confirmation as seniority for the purpose of promotion is based on the length of service irrespective of whether any employee is confirmed or not. Further after three years service, almost all the benefits of permanent service are available to temporary Railway Servants.

(d) Does not arise.

Off-Shore Exploration in Ratnagiri

6384. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 296 on 15th November, 1977 regarding off-shore oil exploration in Ratnagiri and state:

(a) what are the results of drilling of the well in the area about 55 Kms. from Ratnagiri coast;

(b) whether any geophysical survey in the area South of the well about 55 Kms from Ratnagiri coast has been made; and

(c) if so, what is the result?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No oil or gas shows were found in the well drilled in the area about 55 kms from Ratnagiri Coast.

(b) and (c). Geophysical survey carried out along Regional North South Line extending from Ratnagiri

to Mangalore in the off-shore shows thinning of the sedimentary section South of Ratnagiri towards Goa.

Law on Dowry

6385. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel that the existing provisions of the Law are ineffective to check the evil of dowry;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make giving and taking of dowry a cognizable offence; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NAR SINGH YADAV): (a) Government feel that the existing provisions of the law are not quite effective in checking the evil of dowry.

(b) and (c). Proposals to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, including the question of making the offence thereunder cognizable, are under the active consideration of Government.

मेहसाणा-सारंग लाइन का विस्तार

6386. श्री मोतीलाल प्रार० चौधरी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पश्चिम रेलवे में मेहसाणा-सारंग लाइन को पारधी से घमसाजी तक बढ़ाने की मांग की गई है ;