

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) and (b). With a view to improving the catering service and to meet a long standing demand it has been decided that commission bearers engaged by departmental catering units both static and mobile will be absorbed as regular Railway employees on prescribed scales of pay. This will be done in a phased manner on the basis of the length of service etc. rendered by commission bearers.

Railway Lines in Drought Areas

4525. SHRI K. A. RAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to give priority for construction of new railway lines in under developed and drought areas ;

(b) if so, is there any proposal to construct a new railway line from Tiruppur to Palani via Dharapuram; and

(c) if so, when will be the survey work for the new railway line commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) Yes. Government are aware of the need for construction of new lines in the areas where transport facilities are lacking or are inadequate to meet the demands of the areas.

(b) and (c) . It is not possible to take up the proposal to construct the new Railway line from Tiruppur to Palani via Dharapuram at present on account of severe constraint of resources.

Expansion of Madras Central Railway Station Yard.

4526 SHRI K. A. RAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal on hand for the expansion of the Madras Central Railway Station Yard since it is already Congested; and

(b) if so, what is the present position regarding the expansion of the Madras Central Yard and Station ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) and (b). Construction of one additional passenger platform at Madras Central has been completed recently. The work of acquisition of land across the Buckingham Canal near Madras Central Station for further develop-

ment of Madras Central Station is already appearing in the Budget. Negotiations are in progress with the Government of Tamil Nadu for acquisition of this land.

कुछ राज्यों में रेल लाइनों की शीस्त किलोमीटर लम्बाई

4527. श्री मोती शर्मा ० धार० चौधरी : क्या रेल मंत्री कुछ राज्यों में रेलवे लाइनों का शीस्त किलोमीटर लम्बाई के बारे में दिनांक 28-2-78 के प्रतारफित प्रश्न सं० 1000 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात, बिहार, तमिलनाडु, पंजाब, मध्य-प्रदेश, तथा उड़ीसा में बड़ी, मीटर तथा छोटी लाइनों की शीस्त किलोमीटर लम्बाई की तुलना में प्रतिशतता कितनी है ?

' रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) :

राज्य	राज्य में रेलवे लाइन का मार्ग किलोमीटरों में ग्रामान वार प्रतिशत		
	बड़ी लाइन	मीटर लाइन	छोटी लाइन
उत्तर प्रदेश	62.19	37.79	0.02
गुजरात	20.4	59.6	20.0
बिहार	61.6	37.1	1.3
तमिलनाडु	23.3	76.7	..
पंजाब	89.6	9.8	0.6
मध्य प्रदेश	74.8	8.7	16.5
उड़ीसा	92.7	—	7.3

प्रयुक्त टिकटों की पुनः बिची

4228. श्री रीतलाल प्रताप शर्मा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हावड़ा से पटना तथा पटना से रांची तथा धन्य