

Appointment of New Additional Judges to the Supreme Court of India

1388. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new additional judges have been recently appointed to the Supreme Court of India;

(b) if so, who are they and when did they assume their new charge;

(c) whether some more judges are further to be appointed;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They are:

(i) Shri Justice Anand Dev Koshal.

(ii) Shri Justice Ontethupalli Chinnappa Reddi.

(iii) Shri Justice Ananda Prakash Sen.

They assumed charge on 17th July, 1978.

(c) to (e) Before 31-12-1977 the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was 13 judges (excluding the Chief Justice). In view of the load of work with the Supreme Court the former CJI had suggested an increase in the strength of the judges of the Supreme Court by at least 2 so that 15 judges (excluding the Chief Justice) should be in position. In view of the rising trend in institutions/arrears and to obviate the need for legislating again after a short period the strength of the Supreme Court judges was increased to 17 (excluding the Chief Justice) by the Supreme Court Judges (Number of Judges) Amendment Act 1977, which received the assent of the President on 31st December, 1977. For the present 15 judges

(excluding the Chief Justice) have been appointed as proposed by the Chief Justice of India. If the Chief Justice of India feels that more judges are required and makes a proposal the case will be considered by Government.

Beddings Supplied to Rail Passengers

1389. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the beddings supplied by the Railways on the long journey trains to first and second class passengers are not adequate in number and that they often contain unclean (if not dirty and soiled) bed-sheets, pillow-covers and napkins; and

(b) if so, steps being urgently taken by Government to rectify and improve the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) A few complaints about non-supply of bed rolls in long distance trains have been received. The Railway Administration is keeping a watch on the stock of bed-rolls as well as the cleanliness thereof and steps are being taken to augment the stock where required. This is also being ensured through regular and surprise inspections by officials.

Female Workers in Kharagpur Workshop

1390. SHRI SUDHIR GHOSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state how many female workers are working in Kharagpur workshop and how many creches are there for the babies of the female workers as per factories Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): There are 22 female workers in Kharagpur Workshop. In the year 1959 a creche was provided for the babies. Later it was found that the number of children of