

ing coal etc. and stoppage of food-grains import; (ii) unprecedented rains and floods in the rainy season last year; (iii) public agitation in Bihar against the job reservation policy; (iv) unsatisfactory performance of various ports; (v) immobilisation of wagons on account of jute workers' strike; (vi) agitations by sections of railway staff on Eastern, Frontier and South on Eastern, Northeast Frontier and South Eastern Railways.

(c) Various steps such as procurement of additional wagons, import of wheelsets for wagons, etc. have been taken to improve the situation.

Forging Machine Operators

9540. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scale of pay of Forging Machine Operators on the Railway Workshops are skilled or semi-skilled;

(b) if the scales are skilled and semi-skilled both, then the reasons therefor and their duty and responsibilities may be given; and

(c) if in some Zonal Railways, it is skilled and in some Zonal Railways, it is semi-skilled, what action is being taken to provide skilled grade to all and from when?

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

Attaching Extra Coaches to Navajeevan Express

9541. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to add one or more extra coaches to the present Navajeevan Express running between Ahmedabad and Madras, which would be detached at the appropriate station and attached to the appropriate train for onward direct journey to Kerala;

(b) if so, when and how, and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the convenience of through passengers between Ahmedabad and Kerala block reservation of 50 II class sleeper berths are available at Arakkonam by connected trains namely 145 Navajivan Express from Ahmedabad to Arakkonam and 41 Cochin Express from Arakkonam to Cochin. In the return direction the reservations are by 20 Trivandrum-Madras Mail upto Arakkonam and by 146 Navajivan Express from Arakkonam to Ahmedabad. The changeover at Arakkonam is also at convenient hours in both directions.

Provision of a through coach however, is not operationally convenient.

Survey on Child Labour

9542. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been conducting themselves or have commissioned another body to conduct a full length survey of the existing practice and extent of Child Labour in India;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether Government have adopted the Geneva I.L.O. conventions on this subject;