

(b) if so, the rates of honorarium on each zonal Railway, separately and steps taken by Government to bring uniformity in the rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes. On each Zonal Railway, the rates of honoraria paid to the staff in the Accounts Department are fixed in accordance with the nature and quantum of work involved and allied considerations including local conditions and therefore vary from Zonal Railway to another.

(b) The rates of honorarium on each Zonal Railway are being ascertained and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha. However, in view of the fact that the General Managers of Zonal Railways are empowered to sanction such honoraria in consultation with their Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officers, there is no proposal to introduce any uniform rates throughout the Railways as a whole.

Passes to Railway Employees

11089. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on certain Zonal Railways there are restrictions for issuing passes outside the jurisdiction of Head Quarters of the employees; and

(b) if so, the names of the zonal Railways, where such restrictions exist and steps taken by Government to remove such restrictions and bring uniformity in the Rules?

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

Prizes for Apprentices

11090. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prizes declared for winner apprentices of the 18th All India Skill Competition for apprentices held in January, 1977 have not been distributed as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an abnormal delay; and

(c) when the prizes will be distributed and what steps Government propose to take to avoid such delay in future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The All India Skill Competition for apprentices is held under the aegis of National Council for Training in Vocational Trades. By convention the function for the prize distribution to winners is held along with the meeting of the National Council for Training in Vocational Trades to facilitate the participation of the representatives of the State Governments, Union Ministries, Employers and Workers Organisation etc. who attend the same (NCTVT meeting) as its members. The prize distribution function for distributing the prize for the 18th All India Skill Competition for Apprentices could not be organised so far, as the Council, the term of which has expired, is under reconstitution. Measures will be taken to give away the prizes as early as possible.

Rail-Road Coordination Policy

11091. CH. HARI RAM MAKKASAR GODARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he proposes to hold talks with the Minister of Transport to work out a clear, effective and urgent rail-road coordination policy especially in the face of acute short-

age of wagons for lifting coal, cement and grains, etc., and also to avoid complaints in this respect;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals they intend to discuss; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same when there is a dire need to increase transport potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) to (c) Shortage of wagons for coal, cement and grains etc is a temporary phase. Railways and Roadways are already complementing efforts of each other to meet the growing transport requirements in the country. Besides, a National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee) has already been constituted by the Planning Commission to study the transport requirements of the country and to formulate a national transport policy covering all modes of transport.

Blood Centres

11092. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new blood centre has been opened in Delhi to cater to the needs of various units of medical aid in the Capital;

(b) if so, where and at what cost; and

(c) what care has been taken to see that poor villagers and middle-class people who come to Delhi Hospitals from adjoining States get blood when needed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(c) Blood is made available free to needy patients without distinction generally against replacement donors and in emergent cases without even replacement donors.

1144 LS-3.

Ships in Operation and required in our Country

11093. SHRI SUKENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many ships are presently in operating condition in the possession of our country;

(b) how much more ships of different capacities will be required by the country during the next five years, and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to meet this growing demand of ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) (a) 378 ships as on 1st April, 1979.

(b) and (c) The tonnage targets for shipping are fixed by Government in the successive Plans taking into account the trade requirements of the country. The tonnage targets for the next five years have not yet been drawn up.

Reimbursement of Medical Expenses

11094. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Members of Lok Sabha as well as those of Government employees for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by them on their own treatment and/or Members of their families under C.G.H.S. Scheme received in his Ministry since December, 1978;

(b) the number of such cases where reimbursement has been made indicating the time taken to settle each case of reimbursement, with dates of receipt of each claim and issue of cheques in settlement thereof;

(c) the number of days taken to deliver a cheque to a Member after the date of its issue; and