

been stated that as reported by the Hospital authorities Kumari Rajo Devi died on 20-6-78 due to hyperpyrexia after remaining in Coma from 9-6-78.

(b) From the facts ascertained it appeared that there was nothing unusual and hence no formal enquiry was considered necessary.

Provident Fund Claims of Employees of Punjab Electricity Board

7654. SHRI BHAGAT RAM : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how many claims of the employees of Punjab Electricity Board are lying pending in the office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Chandigarh and Asstt. Provident Fund Commissioner, Amritsar ;

(b) for how many years the claims are pending;

(c) reasons as to why the claims are not been released; and

(d) what steps are being taken to expedite the cases ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) The Employees' Provident Fund authorities have stated as follows :

(a) 17 claims of the employees of Punjab Electricity Board are pending in the offices of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Chandigarh and the Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner, Amritsar.

(b) All these claims are pending for less than two months.

(c) These claims remain unsettled for want of following documents required to be submitted by the employer :—

(i) Details of the employees' entry into service;

(ii) Details of reasons and dates of the members leaving service; and

(iii) Details of contributions recovered and remitted in respect of these employees for the period preceding the cessation of their membership.

(d) The employer has been advised to submit the wanting information and the accredited Provident Fund Inspectors have also been instructed to obtain the

same from the concerned establishments to expedite settlement of the claims.

Shortage of Railway Staff in N.F.R.

7655. SHRI ISMAIL HUSSAIN KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of Railway TTEs, Conductors, Coach Attendants and ASM in Northern Frontier Railway, as a result of which some trains are not running punctually and passengers are not getting facilities; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to overcome the difficulties of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEQ NARAIN) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Promotion of S.C. and S.T.

7656. SHRI SOMJI BHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per Railway Board's instructions when suitable candidates are not available from amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for promotion, the seniormost SC/ST employees has to be promoted and to be tried out for a period of six months and report obtained with regard to his working;

(d) whether instances have come to the notice of the Ministry that there have been cases in which SC/ST employees have not been tried out for six months and even before completion of six months, they have been reverted; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEQ NARAIN) : (a) to (c). As per extant instructions, when suitable candidates are not available from amongst the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, the best amongst the failed candidates, and not necessarily the seniormost candidates, are promoted against the reserved vacancies on ad-hoc basis and tried for a period of six months. These instructions apply to all posts except those in safety categories. Any instances of irregularity coming to the notice of the Railway Ministry are rectified.