

(b) if it is for the whole or Indian Railways, why it differs from Zone to Zone and division to division as is seen in the case of the promotional avenues and opportunity for SMs/ASMs; and

(c) what steps have been taken to unify the service conditions and promotional avenues of SMs/ASMs on the national basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The avenues of promotion are decided by the Railway Administrations depending upon the local conditions prevailing on their systems. These are generally decided in consultation with the representatives of organised labour on the various zonal Railways. Local conditions, however, vary from one Railway to another for historical reasons, since the inception of the Railways their expansion over a period of over 125 years throughout the length and breadth of the country, taking over of the ex-company and ex-State Railways which were not under the management of the Government and their later integration and division into 9 Zones.

2. In the recent upgradation scheme, it has been ensured that the promotional prospects of SMs/ASMs on the 9 zones are uniform by laying down gradewise percentage distribution of posts for all the zonal Railways. The prescribed percentages are as under:—

Category	Scale of pay	Percentage
A. S. M.	330—560(RS)	55%
	425—640(RS)	37.5%
	455—700(RS)	7.5%
S. M.	425—640(RS)	45.0%
	455—700(RS)	37.5%
	550—750(RS)	15.0%
	700—900(RS)	2.5%

3. In regard to the promotional avenues, if there is any glaring disparity in a Unit and if it is brought to the Government's notice, Govern-

ment will be glad to look into it. Also, it is open to staff and their representatives to take up the matter at the appropriate level.

4. In regard to the general question of service conditions of Railway employees, it is pointed out that, while the service conditions of employees are intended to be uniform and are so by and large, they cannot be uniform for all staff, as Railways employ over 700 categories of staff performing different duties. To mention a few instances, certain categories of staff are governed by the Factories Act, Hours of Employment Regulations, Running Allowances Rules etc. etc. on account of the special nature of duties they have to perform and their conditions of service cannot naturally be the same as for other staff.

Child Labourer in Match Factories in Tamil Nadu

5451. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the employment of child girls and boys at match factories in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken to prevent such employment; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the employment of children in various avenues in Tamil Nadu by the Central Government and if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, in addition to strengthening the machinery for enforcement of relevant laws pertaining to employment of children in such factories, various other welfare measures are being taken to prevent their exploitation.

(c) The Labour Bureau had undertaken a survey last year on Child

Labour in Tamil Nadu and a few other states. The report on the survey is presently under preparation.

Amendment to EPF Act

5452. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of employees are deprived of the benefit of membership of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme because the much publicised amendment of Section 1(3) (a), 1 (3) (b) of the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 has not been made for the last several years;

(b) by what time the appropriate legislative measure is likely to be taken to help the workers; and

(c) whether Government are considering to abolish the condition of infancy period of 3 and 5 years which has become out-dated, under the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). Certain proposals to enlarge the coverage of the Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 are being processed. Efforts are being made to bring forward necessary amending legislation as soon as possible.

(c) There is a proposal to modify the infancy period.

Ranchi Railway Station

5453. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute water scarcity in Ranchi Railway Station resulting in dry taps in waiting rooms, retiring rooms, etc.;

(b) whether the Ranchi Railway Station is most ill-managed and there is no traffic control within the premises of Railway Station;

(c) whether there is insufficient accommodation in the retiring rooms of the said Railway Station; and

(d) whether Government propose to initiate a crash programme to introduce all round development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no shortage except when there is dislocation due to occasional stoppage of supply by Bihar Public Health Engineering Department.

(b) No. There is large open space available in front of the station with adequate parking facilities. The responsibility for traffic control lies with the traffic police of the State Government.

(c) Adequate retiring room facilities are available at this station.

(d) As Ranchi is a well developed station with all necessary facilities, there is no proposal to initiate a crash programme for its all round development.

Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme

5454. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme has been brought into effect from 1st August, 1976;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of staff in Provident Fund Commissioners' Offices resulting in deterioration of efficiency of staff and hardship to the workers at large; and

(c) the number of claims preferred under Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme in each year since its inception, month-wise and number of claims settled in each year, month-wise and the total number of pending cases as on the 31st March, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No shortage of staff at lower levels has been reported in respect of Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance