

undermentioned concessions have been extended to them:—

(i) They are considered for absorption in Class IV vacancies after eligible Casual Labour and substitutes have been considered. For this purpose, they are given relaxation in age limit to the extent of 5 years or service rendered whichever is less. The age concession is also admissible for appearing before the Railway Service Commission for selection to Class III categories. On absorption, they become entitled to all benefits given to other railwaymen, including allotment of quarters.

(ii) The staff are granted Passes/PTOs, as an ex-gratia measure, on the restricted scale as given below:—

Passes:

First two years—Nil

3rd to 20th year—1 set per annum.

21st year and over—2 sets per annum.

P.T.Os.

2nd year onward—3 sets per annum.

(iii) Family members of staff of Consumer Cooperative Societies are given indoor and outdoor medical facilities on *per capita* basis.

Railway Platform Bookstalls

2028. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted it as a policy since 1975 that the bookstalls on the Railway platforms would be allotted only to unemployed graduates;

(b) if so, how many bookstalls were allotted to unemployed graduates/

their organisations since then in various Zonal Railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that some big contractors continued to get allotted the bookstalls in various zonal railways after 1975, despite applications from unemployed graduates; and

(d) if so, the details of such parties and action taken to terminate their contracts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In the year 1973, it was decided that all fresh allotments of bookstalls at stations having no bookstalls and at new stations will be made only to Cooperative Societies of unemployed graduates in the age group of 18 to 30 years. There have been some modifications to this policy since then and as per present policy, all fresh allotments of bookstalls are exclusively meant for individual unemployed graduates within the age group of 18 to 30 years, their partnerships, cooperatives, associations and the cooperative societies of actual workers and vendors of railway bookstalls at:—

(i) stations having no bookstalls at present but where a bookstall may be considered necessary;

(ii) new stations which may be opened in future;

(iii) new platforms added on or after 1.1.76 to existing stations even if there is already a bookstall.

(b) 159 bookstalls at stations and 6 mobile library-cum-bookstalls on trains.

(c) and (d). No bookstall has been allotted to any major bookstall contractor at stations. However, 2 mobile library-cum-bookstalls each are being operated by M/s Higginbothams & Sons and M/s Wheeler & Co. on *ad hoc* temporary basis pending final allotments to eligible categories.