

### Subsidised hostel at Cuttack

4364. SHRI BAJUBAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the boys of the subsidised hostel at Cuttack on South Eastern Railway used to be given two meals and one tiffin a day;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways allotted Rs. 1.40 in 1961, Rs. 1.75 in 1967 and Rs. 2.40 in 1971 towards the meals and tiffin charges per boy according to cost index; and

(c) why the railways have not increased the allotment according to the present price index for each boy since no revision has been made since 1971?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI KARJUN): (a) Yes. In addition tea and snacks in the afternoon are also served.

(b) and (c). The rate has been increased in 1980 to Rs. 5.30.

### Hadmatiya-Jodva line

4365. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Had Matiya-Jodva railway line in Jamnagar District of Gujarat State has been closed down for the last about two years;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to the closure the pilgrims of that area are facing great difficulty to reach their destination and also the transportation of salt is suffering;

(c) what are the reasons due to which that line has been closed down; and

(d) whether Government propose to reopen this line for the welfare of pilgrims and Public at that area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI KARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) On conversion of Viramgam-Hapa metre gauge section into broad gauge, the operation of Hadmatiya-Jodia line is neither operationally feasible nor economical.

(d) Does not arise.

### Disparity in grades of Station Master

4366. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide disparity between the grades of Station Masters and those of Chief Booking Clerks;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is discontent among the station masters over this disparity; and

(c) what are the time-bound concrete steps proposed to remove this disparity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI KARJUN): (a) Both Station Masters and Booking Clerks have been allotted the following grades which are operated depending upon the importance and workload of the Station. The Booking Clerk in higher grades are designated as Chief Booking Clerks.

Rs. 425—640.

Rs. 455—700.

Rs. 550—750.

Rs. 700—900.

It will be observed from the above that there is no disparity in the grades.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.