

varying from over 1 year to 3 years and over three years after having appeared before a duly constituted Selection Board and placed on panel, and are not yet confirmed, in the various Departments;

(b) what is normally considered as the minimum and maximum officiating periods for confirming an employee;

(c) whether it is a fact that employees with over three years satisfactory officiating period have not been confirmed as yet; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) No maximum and minimum officiating periods have been laid down for this purpose.

(c) Yes.

(d) For want of permanent vacancies.

Stenographers in Western Railway

73. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permanent posts of Stenographers in all the 3 grades of 80—220, 200—300 and 280—350 as existing on the 31st March, 1957 on the Western Railway;

(b) the avenues of promotion provided for Stenographers on the different Zonal Railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that Stenographers in the Railway Board and other Central Government Secretariat offices have their avenues of promotion in the clerical line also; and

(d) if so, the basis for this discriminatory treatment and whether any steps are being taken to remove this discrimination?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 49.]

(c) Yes, Private Secretaries attached to Members/Additional Members of the Railway Board who have obtained training as Assistant and Assistant Superintendent for at least two years are eligible for appointment as Superintendent Grade II of the Railway Board's Secretariat Service with the approval of the Union Public Service Commission in the vacancy reserved for such Stenographers. Members of Grade I of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (Private Secretaries etc.) are eligible to be considered for appointment against a specified quota of posts in Grade II of the Central Secretariat Service in accordance with the provision of the scheme with the approval of the Union Public Service Commission.

(d) There is no discrimination.

Land Submerged by Hirakud Dam

74. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the total acreage of land submerged by the Hirakud Dam?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): 1,81,602 acres.

Level Crossing at Cuttack Station

75. **Shri Pratap Keshari Deo:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the public are harassed by the constant closure of the Railway gate at the level crossing near Cuttack Station on the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Road; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to construct an overbridge or an under-bridge to relieve the traffic congestion at the level crossing?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir, However, due to frequent closure of this level crossing which is situated in the busy station yard the public may have been put to some inconvenience.