

the 7.77 Kms. Miraj-Sangli (Maharashtra) broad gauge link;

(b) if so, when and whether the estimate of the said project has been scrutinised and sanctioned;

(c) if the Planning Commission has not cleared the said Project what special efforts were made during the period of three months by the Railway authorities to have the same cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) to (d) A reference has not been made to the Planning Commission so far. Since the cost of the project has increased substantially, it was considered necessary to reappraise the project financially. South Central Railway has been asked to carry out the financial reappraisal which is in progress. After the report is received, a decision will be taken whether to approach the Planning Commission for clearance of the Project or to sanction the estimate in the Railway Ministry itself.

Absorption of Co-operative Workers in Railways

6348. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no workers of Railway Cooperative Societies of Dhanbad Division has since been absorbed in Railways in terms of Railway Boards letter No. E(NG)III|77|RR|5 dated 26 August, 1977; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof indicating the number of substitutes/class IV staff employed in Dhanbad Division during the period from 1979 to 1981 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :
(a) Yes.

(b) In terms of Board's orders of 26th August, 1977 staff of the quasi-administrative offices like cooperative societies are to be considered for absorption in regular railway services after eligible casual labourers and substitutes have been considered. The number of eligible casual labourers and substitutes is considerable in number compared to the vacancies available and it has not been possible to absorb the staff of the Railway Cooperative Societies of Dhanbad Division.

The number of substitutes in class IV employed in Dhanbad Division during the years 1979, 1980 and 1981 year-wise is 568, 284 and 437 respectively.

Primary Schools

6349. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Schools, which are without a single teacher; and with one teacher only in each one of them, as on 31st December, 1981 for each Union Territories of the country; and

(b) steps taken by Government to improve the quality of education at Primary level during the last three years including current financial year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNSON) : (a) Information as on 31-12-1981 is not available. A statement indicating the position as on 30-9-1978 (Fourth All India Educational Survey) is given in the statement attached.

(b) The main steps suggested or undertaken for improvement of the quality of Primary Education are as under :

(i) Conversion of single-teacher schools into two teacher schools.

(ii) Improvement of physical facilities of primary and middle schools.